

Cop killed in Dera attack F.P. Report

D I KHAN: A policeman was killed in an attack on a gas drilling company convoy in Darazinda. "A policeman was killed, and 12 others got injured in attack on a convoy of a private gas drilling company," rescue sources said. According to media reports, D.I. Khan Rescue 1122 medical teams shifted injured to the hospital. "Two injured persons have been in a precarious condition."

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Two Sepoy martyred F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location resultantly one terrorist was sent to hell. However, during intense fire exchange, Sepoy Abdullah (resident of Mardan) Sepoy Muhammad Sohail (resident of Tharparkar), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

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Senate passes resolution backing military trials of May 9 rioters

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The upper house of parliament on Monday passed a resolution against the Supreme Court's verdict on civilians' trial in the military courts, urging the top court to stop implementation of the judgment "unless it is considered by a larger bench".

The resolution, moved by Senator Dilawar Khan earlier today, said the bench that announced the recent judgment was not in unanimity as opposed to the previous benches which upheld trials of civilians under the Army Act, hence the decision is legally flawed and should not be implemented unless it is considered by a larger bench. The resolution observed with "apprehension that the invalidation of the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities".

It said military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders. "The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the martyrs in order to address the concerns raised regarding

the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation."

The senators reiterated concerns expressed by various stakeholders regarding the recent judgment of the Supreme Court that declared "Section 2(D)(1) & 59 (4) of the Army Act unconstitutional". The lawmakers, in the resolution, took exception to override an Act of Parliament, which was "within the previous and exiting scheme of the constitutional and legislative framework and duly enacted under the legislative competence of parliament".

"Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament," read the resolution. It reiterated that the trial of those accused of violence against the armed forces under the Army Act is an appropriate and proportional response in line with Pakistan's existing constitutional framework and statutory regime.

The trial of individuals accused of anti-state vandalism and violence under the Army Act serves "as a deterrent against such acts". Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) senators Raza Rabbani and Mushtaq Ahmed, respectively opposed the resolution against the top

court's verdict.

In a unanimous verdict, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court last month declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void as it admitted the petitions challenging the trial of civilians involved in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in a corruption case.

A five-member apex court bench — headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik —announced the order on October 23 on the petitions filed by the PTI chief and others. Four judges out of the five had declared that Section 2(1)(d) of the Army Act and 59(4) (civil offences) are "ultra vires the Constitution and of no legal effect".

"Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the trials of civilians and accused persons, being around 103 persons [...] shall be tried by criminal courts of competent jurisdiction established under the ordinary and/or special law of the land in relation to such offences of which they may stand accused," the short order read.



CHARSADDA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offering fateha at the resident of late KP caretaker chief minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

Solangi, caretaker KP CM discuss elections

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and discussed with him the upcoming elections, cooperating in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists.

During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minister KP. Both the federal minister and the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial.

Solangi said that the Caretaker Government fully believed in freedom of expression and would provide all possible facilities to the media during the elections. The caretaker government was fulfilling its responsibilities under the Constitution and equal opportunities were being provided to all political parties. Syed Arshad Hussain assured that the problems of journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved on a priority basis.

Pakistan optimistic about IMF review

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is optimistic about the successful completion of the first International Monetary Fund (IMF) review of the \$3 billion standby arrangement (SBA) as the negotiations between the two sides have entered the final round, said well-placed sources.

The policy-level talks between the IMF and Pakistani authorities began today (Monday) and will continue till November 15, the sources added. The Pakistani delegation was led by Interim Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar and comprised State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmad, Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwan, and officials from the finance and energy ministries. Nathan Porter was heading the IMF team during the negotiation.

Finance ministry sources said that the IMF delegation presented their recommendations and demands during today's session. In the technical-level talks, economic data was shared with the team of the international lender. The sources privy to the matter claimed that Pakistan has completed all the conditions of the IMF.

The staff-level agreement will be finalised during the ongoing policy-level talks, the sources said, adding that after the successful completion of the first review, around \$700 million will be released to Pakistan.

PM directs formulation of plan to uplift FBR

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: CHARSADDA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to formulate and present a comprehensive strategy, based on input from all the stakeholders, with a view to improve the performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to mull over the measures for improving the FBR's performance, said the utilisation of the modern technology was inevitable to improve the taxation system. The meeting was briefed on the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation system.

The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR. The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy. He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results. Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, FBR chairman, federal finance secretary and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

PM visits late Azam Khan's residence, condoles with his family members: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited the residence

of deceased former Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan in Parang to condole with his family members.

He offered his heartfelt condolence to the sons of the deceased, Behram Azam Khan and Sikandar Azam Khan. The prime minister offered fateha and prayed for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace and elevation of ranks in paradise.

Paying tribute to the late Azam Khan, PM Kakar said he was a capable officer and his services for the caretaker provincial government were unforgettable. Newly appointed Caretaker Provincial Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah also accompanied the prime minister.

Death toll in Gaza hospital rises to 27 adults, 7 babies

GAZA STRIP, Palestine Territories: The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Monday the death toll at Al-Shifa hospital rose to 34 since the weekend as the facility suffered fuel shortages. The latest toll included 27 adult intensive care patients and seven babies, deputy health minister in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, Youssef Abu Rish said.

The hospitals in the center of the heaviest north Gaza fighting have been forced out of service amid shortages and combat, the Hamas-run health ministry said Monday, adding the number of patients dying in the biggest medical center had risen. Israel argues that its Hamas enemies have built their military headquarters in tunnels beneath the Al-Shifa hospital complex, while UN agencies and doctors inside the facility warned the effects of the raging battles were claiming the lives of civilians including infants.

As witnesses reported more "violent fighting," overnight aerial bombardments and the clatter of gunfire echoed across the sprawling Al-Shifa hospital at the heart of the Gaza City, now an urban war zone. The Hamas government's deputy health minister Youssef Abu Rish told AFP all hospitals in the north of the embattled territory were "out of service."

The World Health Organization in the Palestinian Territories warned that up to 3,000 patients and staff are sheltering inside without adequate fuel, water or food, after the UN's humanitarian agency said previously that 20 of Gaza's 36 hospitals have been disabled. "Regrettably, the hospital is not functioning as a hospital anymore," said WHO director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, after contacting on-the-ground staff inside the Al-Shifa complex.

"It's been three days without electricity, without water," he said, describing the plight of those trapped inside as "dire and perilous." The Israeli army pushed on with their campaign, determined to destroy the Islamist movement whose gunmen it says killed at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took about 240 hostages in the country's worst ever



attack. But Israel is facing intense international pressure to minimize civilian suffering amid its massive air and ground operation, which that Hamas authorities say have killed 11,180 people, including 4,609 children.

Israel said 44 of its troops have been killed in the Gaza offensive. Flags flew at half-mast at United Nations compounds across Asia on Monday, as staff observed a minute's silence in memory of colleagues killed in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas conflict. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Israel to show "maximum restraint" while condemning Hamas for using "hospitals and civilians as human shields."

The Israel Defense Forces on Monday reported more heavy fighting and again stressed its claim that Hamas was hiding in civilian infrastructure. "IDF troops are continuing to conduct raids... targeting terrorist infrastructure located in central governmental institutions in the heart of the civilian population, including schools, universities, mosques and residences of terrorists," it said. Israeli forces had entered Gaza's Abu Bakr mosque and found "a large number of explosive devices and flammable materials" as well as weapons, military equipment and Hamas operational plans, it said.

In another operation, "IDF ground troops entered the residence of a senior Islamic Jihad terrorist and located a large number of weapons inside the kids' room of the residence." Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out calls for a ceasefire, saying Hamas must first release the hostages. Israelis

are still stunned by the October 7 attack and preoccupied with the fate of those missing.

A recent poll by the Israel Democracy Institute showed many Israelis support talks with Hamas to secure the release of hostages, but believe fighting should not be halted. Netanyahu told US media that "there could be" a deal to free the hostages, but stopped short of providing any details, adding that "the less I say about it, the more I'll increase the chances that it materializes." White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told MSNBC there has been "active negotiation" on a potential deal but kept mum on any details.

A Palestinian official in Gaza speaking on condition of anonymity accused Israel of dragging its feet. "Netanyahu is responsible for the delay and obstacles in reaching a preliminary agreement on the release of several prisoners," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity. International attention has focused on the plight of Palestinians, and protests have been held worldwide in solidarity with the 2.4 million under bombardment and siege for more than five weeks.

Only a few hundred trucks carrying humanitarian aid had been let into Gaza since October 7, with Israel concerned fuel deliveries would be used by Hamas militants. Almost 1.6 million people — about two-thirds of Gaza's population — have been internally displaced since October 7, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA. — Aljazeera

SC imposes Rs 1m fine on Punjab govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday imposed a fine of Rs one million on the Punjab Government for acquiring the land of a citizen for the construction of a road in 2007 without his permission and paying any compensation.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case related to the matter. At the outset of hearing, the CJP remarked that how the provincial government had built a road on someone's land without permission or payment. The petitioner neither gifted the land to the government nor it was acquired in accordance of the law, he noted.

The court expressed annoyance at the Additional Advocate General Punjab and asked why he had filed such a futile case. Public resources and court time were wasted due to such false cases, and genuine cases were also sidelined, he added. The court instructed the provincial government to also pay Rs one million to the citizen as fine.

It should be noted that the Punjab government had built a road on the land of a citizen named Liaquat Ali in Gujranwala in 2007, and the appellate court and the high court had given their decisions in his favour, which were also upheld by the Supreme Court. The court rejected the Punjab Government's appeal against its decision, and ordered it to pay the compensation to the owner within 30 days as per the current price of the land.

Apex court issues notices on plea challenging census results: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to principal law officer of Pakistan and Balochistan Advocate General in response to a plea challenging the Balochistan census results.

Earlier, the petitioner, Hasan Kamran had invoked jurisdiction of Balochistan High Court (BHC), however, upon rejection of the plea the petitioner moved to the Supreme Court. Challenging the BHC decision in the matter the petitioner urged the top court to declare the High Court's August 29 decision as void.

The petitioner is of the view that Balochistan population had been reported to be around 21.7 million till the final phase of the census process. However, in the final report Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in its meeting, the population of Balochistan was reduced to 14.89 million. A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan took up the plea challenging the census results in Balochistan.

Pakistanis will not accept 'selected raj': Bilawal

F.P. Report

MITHI: As general elections draw close, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced Monday the people will not accept "selected raj (selected government)" anymore a term used for the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Addressing a public rally in Mithi, Bilawal said: "People bore selected raj for five years, but now any selected raj is unacceptable." Without naming any party, the PPP chairman said that people would respond to those who were getting their election results made while sitting in the room.

It is pertinent to mention here that the PPP leadership has been accusing the Pakistan Mulsim League (PML-N) of having a "hidden alliance" with the caretaker government. Slamming the PTI, Bilawal said people would answer those who attacked the state

installations on May 9 in the upcoming general elections — slated to be held on February 8, 2024.

"On the other hand, we have friends, if they think that they will contest elections by copying the PTI, they will fail," He said: "People will defeat Mahengai-league on February 8." The PPP leader further said that people will give a "surprise" in the next elections.

Addressing the rally, the PPP chairman hoped that "jialas (the term used for PPP workers)" would become prime minister and chief executive of Punjab this time. Bilawal vowed to complete the unfinished mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — who was hanged to death on April 4, 1979, in a murder case but his party terms it a "judicial murder".

Recalling his family's services to the people, Bilawal said that they have been struggling to eliminate poverty for the past three generations. The PPP

empowered the farmers, peasants, and the poor, he added. The PPP chairman vowed to double the salaries of the workers and introduce a "hari card" like the Benazir Income Support Programme card. Last week, PPP's former allies in Centre — PML-N and MQM-P — announced that they would jointly go into the upcoming general elections, a move which could have impacts on the election results in urban areas of Sindh, the stronghold of the Bilawal-led party.

The development came as the scathing verbal showdown between the PPP and PML-N intensified since the Election Commission of Pakistan had announced to hold elections in the country in February next year. The romance between the two former allies ended after the PDM-led coalition government completed its term in August and both the PPP and PML-N locked horns over election-related issues.

9 members KP caretaker cabinet of govt takes oath

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The nine members caretaker Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government here Monday took oath at Governor House Peshawar. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath to the caretaker Provincial Cabinet attended by caretaker Chief Minister Hussain Shah.

The caretaker Provincial Ministers that took oath include Syed Masood Shah, Justice (R) Irshad Shah, Ahmad Rasool Bangash, Asif Rafiq, Dr Najeebullah, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, Engr Amir Durrani, Engr Ahmad Jan and Syed Amir Abdullah. Besides others, the oath taking ceremony was attended by Chief Secretary and IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, administrative secretaries, political and civil society leaders. The Governor congratulated the caretaker Ministers and expressed best wishes for them.

Caretaker KP CM assigns portfolios to 9 Ministers: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister here Monday assigned portfolios to the nine interim ministers.

According to the notification of Administration Department, Syed Masood Shah was assigned the portfolio of Establishment, Administration and Inter Provincial Coordination,



Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser (Relief, Rehabilitation, Settlement, Zakat, Usher, Social Welfare, Women Empowerment and Special Education, Ahmad Rasool Bangash (Finance, Revenue and Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control), Asif Rafiq (Climate Change, Forestry, Wildlife, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food), Dr Najeebullah (Science, Technology, Information Technology, Sports, Youth Affairs),

Muhammad Qasim Jan (Education, Higher Education and Libraries, Archives), Syed Amir Abdullah (Tribal Affairs, Technical Education, Industry, Commerce), Engr. Amer Nadeem Durrani (Public Health Engineering, Local Government, Rural Development, Elections and Engr Ahmad Jan (Communication and Works, Irrigation). The remaining portfolios of departments would be kept with the Chief Minister.

Factory shifted from residential area on Ombudsman’s intervention

KARACHI (APP): On directives of Sindh Provincial Ombudsman Ijaz Ali Khan a factory set up on a residential plot has been shifted from the area.

The Ombudsman expressed satisfaction over implementation of his orders regarding shifting the factory from the residential area, said a statement issued here on Monday. The complainant, Syed Kamran filed an online complaint that a factory has been established on a residential plot in the FB area that was causing noise and air pollution and become a nuisance for the residents of the area. The complainant requested the Ombudsman immediate action in the regard.

Provincial Ombudsman Sindh forwarded the complaint to Regional Director Karachi Central for investigation who sought report from Assistant Commissioner Gulburg, Director General Environmental Protection Agency and Director Land KDA and directed for necessary action.

Lahore Lahore Aey festival extended

LAHORE (APP): The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore has decided to extend the duration of the Lahore Lahore Aey cultural festival at Jilani Bagh until November 19, following the directive of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

According to a spokesperson, the original end date for the festival at Jilani Bagh was November 12. However, considering the significant public interest in the event, the PHA has decided to extend the duration.

CM seeks carbon credits plan to accelerate tree plantation

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has sought a comprehensive carbon credit plan for afforestation and valuable carbon exchange. During the meeting, attended by provincial ministers Amir Mir, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, secretaries of forests, finance & industries departments and others, a consensus was reached to enlist the expertise of a consultancy firm for the strategic acquisition of carbon credits.

The briefing illuminated the diverse sectors, numbering ten in total, from which carbon credits can be obtained. These sectors include waste management, transportation, renewable energy, industry and land use, among others.

It was underscored that the acquisition of carbon credits is intricately tied to activities such as the preservation of forests and the proactive management of environmental pollution.

An important aspect highlighted in the meeting was the practice of countries with higher carbon emissions channelling investments into afforestation and environmental conservation initiatives in other nations. The allocation of carbon credits operates on a specific mechanism aimed at oxygen generation through the meticulous control of carbon emissions. This process involves countries emitting carbon and

engaging in financial transactions with others to secure these credits. Similarly, carbon credits are also bought and sold through the voluntary carbon market, the briefing further explained.

CM unveils master plan for streamlined one-window business operations: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi unveiled a significant initiative aimed at facilitating ease of doing business, fostering industrial development, and promoting investments.

A comprehensive master plan for a one-window operation system has been meticulously crafted to streamline business processes and support investment endeavors. Under this system, all necessary NOCs from various departments will be efficiently issued under one roof, simplifying the landscape for businesses.

During a meeting chaired by the CM here on Monday, the detailed master plan for the One Window Operation system was presented, with an expected completion date next month. The operational hub for this system will be housed in Al-Falah Building, providing a centralized and convenient location for the business community. Additionally, an online portal will grant businesses access to comprehensive information, while dedicated focal persons will be assigned for each department.

Punjab govt announces various category student scholarships

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has announced scholarships for talented and deserving students.

Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) official sources told APP that candidates who have passed the matriculation and intermediate examination in 2023 with at least 60 percent marks will be able to apply. To avail the scholarships, online application can be submitted to Punjab Education Endowment Fund, besides orphan students can also apply for scholarship. Children of government employees in grades 1 to 4 with salary below Rs60000 will be eligible,

they said.

Likewise, students belonging to minority are also eligible to apply.

Moreover government of the Punjab has also decided to accommodate the ‘special students’ for these scholarship.

It is worth mentioning here that scholarships will be given to talented minority students under the Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs. Children of civilians martyred in terrorism will also be eligible only through respective departments. It should be noted that the application can be submitted online till January 31.

KP secures top position consecutively for 2nd time at Lok Mela

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The ten-day Folk Festival of Pakistan, Lok Mela organized by the National Heritage and Culture Division has concluded at Lok Versa Islamabad, however, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa achieved the Best Pavilion Award consecutively for second time, on Monday.

The pavilion of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority was the main attraction, receiving praise and appreciation from visitors. Thirty stalls were set up by KPCTA, showcasing products from artisans of Abbottabad, DI Khan, Charsadda, Haripur, Swabi, Peshawar, Chitral, Manshera, and merged districts. Stalls from Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, Sindh, Baluchistan, and Punjab were also established at the festival.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, Syed Jamal Shah and Secretary Culture and Heritage Humaira Ahmad were the Chief Guests on the occasion. Jamal Shah commended the setup of all the stalls, stating that the event was organized to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. He



emphasized the importance of organizing similar events at the provincial level to unite artists and artisans, providing them opportunities to showcase their culture, traditions and heritage. Jamal Shah stressed the promotion of national harmony and cultural diversification, highlighting the role of artists in preserving centuries-old traditions and culture, which constitute the identity of the country.

He appreciated the work of artisans, noting that it can help promote the genuine soft image of the country globally. Jamal Shah also acknowledged the participation of artists in the event.

KPCTA participated in the event with the aim of projecting a positive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

informing the world about the rich cultural and traditional heritage of the province. They arranged a traditional hujra, a common sitting place, where visitors could enjoy traditional music. Traditional Khattak Dance and Rabab music were also featured in the hujra. A total of 30 stalls were set up by KPCTA, showcasing products from artisans of Abbottabad, DI Khan, Charsadda, Haripur, Swabi, Peshawar, Chitral, Manshera and merged districts.

Visitors enjoyed foods from various regions at stalls offering traditional cuisines, including Chapli Kabab, Karahi, Tikka Boti, Qehwa, sugarcane juice and various traditional dishes established by KPCTA. The traditional items displayed in the KP pavilion included wax paintings, pottery, Mughal art, Charsadda Chappal and Khaddi, woodwork, Chitrali cap, stone and glass carving, Hazara phulkari and bags, Swati Shawl, truck art, handicrafts, stone mosaics, calligraphy, straw work, stone decoration pieces, dry fruits, sugarcane juice and traditional KP items.

KPCTA also set up a tourism information desk to provide visitors with information about the province through brochures, posters and booklets. Videos showcasing various tourist attractions and traditional cuisines of KP were also screened in the pavilion. Stalls displaying items from merged districts and Kalash were also part of the pavilion.

The aim of Lok Mela is to bring artists and artisans together on a platform that enables them to introduce their work and art to the world. Muhammad Kashif of Charsadda was declared the master artisan of Charsadda Chappal, Waseem of DI Khan for Lacquer art, Syed Abid Shah of Peshawar for Wheat Straw Art, and Nasim Akhtar of Hazara for Jasti work. Aimal Khan of Mardan was declared the best harmonium player, while Uzair Ahmad of Mardan was announced as the best Rabab player.



LAHORE: Labourers busy in construction work of Liberty Market.



LAHORE: Female vendor displaying bangles to attract customers at her roadside setup.

Smog intensifying again as rain impact reduces

LAHORE (APP): The blanket of the smog gets thick and deepened again in the provincial metropolis as the situation has started intensifying again after reducing the impact of rain again. The educational institutions opened on Monday after four holidays. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 16 and a maximum of 26 degrees Celsius.

According to MET office sources, there is no chance of rain in the city yet during the ongoing week.

The MET official sources confirmed that Lahore has become one of the most polluted cities in the world. The early morning smog rate was 285 AQI while the average rate knocked at 262.

Air Quality Index of Mall Road area was recorded as 298, while Air Quality Index of Cantt. area was recorded as 205.

The district administration sources told APP that actions are

being taken against smog-emitting vehicles and factories to prevent smog. Water is being sprinkled on the highways of the city with the help of tankers.

In this connection medical experts say that increasing air pollution in the city can prove dangerous for children, elderly and people suffering from lung and heart diseases.

They urged the citizens to ensure use of masks and glasses while going out of homes.

They said the environment has serious effects on health in a variety of ways, by significantly impacting human health in two ways, either directly by exposing people to harmful carbon-agents, or indirectly, by disrupting life-sustaining ecosystems.

Smog and environmental hazards are directly posing threats to human health and well-being and this is rapidly emerging as a serious health concern in the Punjab

capital, they added.

The Environment Protection Department (EPA) Director Naseem-ur-Rehman Shah and City District Government Lahore (CDGL) sources said that they are struggling hard to effectively curb the smog.

They added that the mushrooming of small unplanned industrial units are directly responsible for the situation, however heavy fines are being imposed on them for producing the toxic level of chemicals in the air, that is worsening the smog across the city.

It is worth mentioning here that on Monday, the Lahore High Court ordered closure of all schools and colleges in Punjab on Saturday, November 18, to curb smog, as it also recommended a two-day work from home for employers.


Today, the hearing was attended by the Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and other government officials.

Commissioner visits ongoing development projects in city


LAHORE (APP): Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa visited the ongoing development projects in the city here on Monday. Randhawa visited the under construction controlled Access Corridor on the Band Road. He made a detailed review of the ongoing works on both the project packages. Chief Engineer LDA Israr Saeed, contractor and project team briefed the

commissioner. He said that 29 percent of Niazi Chowk to Sagian Interchange Package One and 18 percent of Sagian to

Babu Sabu Package Two have been completed. Work on the projects is going round the clock, more machinery and human resources have been deployed. Randhawa reviewed the achievement of targets as per the timeline.



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
(Regional Head Office Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



RENTAL OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED FOR NADRA Offices, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
(Tender Notice No. 2023-24/Estate/11 x NRCs)

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WILL HAVE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- Office Accommodation should be in the below mentioned locations: -

S#	NADRA Registration Center	Required Covered Area	Bids / Proposals Submission Date & Time	Technical Proposal Opening Date & Time
1.	Bannu (Tehsil & District Bannu)	12000-15000 sq ft		
2.	Tordher (Tehsil Chota Lahor, District Swabi)	2000-3500 sq ft		
3.	Chota Lahor (Tehsil Chota Lahor, District Swabi)	2500-4000 sq ft		
4.	Umerzai (Tehsil & District Charsadda)	2500-4000 sq ft		
5.	Ullman Khel (Tehsil Dargai, District Malakand)	2000-3500 sq ft		
6.	Qalandar Abad (Tehsil & District Abbottabad)	2000-3500 sq ft	06th Dec 2023 at 11:00 am	06th Dec 2023 at 11:30 am
7.	Bakool (Tehsil & District Abbottabad)	2000-3500 sq ft		
8.	Havelian (Tehsil Havelian, District Abbottabad)	2000-3500 sq ft		
9.	Ghari Habibullah (Tehsil Balakot, District Mansehra)	2000-3500 sq ft		
10.	Chakisar (Tehsil Chakisar, District Shangla)	2000-3500 sq ft		
11.	Khwazakhela (Tehsil Khwazakhela, District Swat)	2000-3500 sq ft		

- Space measuring of total covered area mentioned against each with public and staff washrooms.
- Prominent, having independent entrance and proposed building should not be in residential area.
- Security wise viable location and easily accessible by public transport.
- Dedicated 3 Phase Electrical Meter / Connection
- Preference will be given to the building in which dedicated transformer is installed.
- Tap Water facility along with overhead tank.
- Ramp for wheel chair for disable citizens.
- Space, NOC for installation of direction board, sign board and heavy generator.
- Roof top for satellite dish antenna installation.
- Sufficient space for maintaining the public queue & parking area.
- Tenancy for a longer period (Preferably 10 years).

Note:- Interested parties / owners can purchase the bidding documents on submission of a written application at a cost of Rs. 100/- from below mentioned address or from concerned offices between 09:00 am – 03:00 pm hours (except gazette holidays). The bids / proposal should be submitted duly completed in all respects (under Single Stage–Two Envelope bidding procedure). The envelopes shall be clearly marked as Technical and Financial proposals. Technical bids / proposals will be Opened at date & time mentioned against each at NADRA Regional Head Office, EOBI Building, Plot No. 31 Sector B- 1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar in presence of bidders/their nominated representatives. Bid / proposals must include the following documents in addition to any other information that the bidder may find necessary: -

Technical Bid (Separate Envelop):

- Photocopy of property ownership documents [Fard-e-Jaidad/Allotment letter/Relevant Certificate by concerned authority (where settled revenue record is not available)].
- Photocopy of valid CNIC.
- Completion and Fitness Certificate of the building
- Undertaking on Non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- certifying that owner / building is not temporary / permanently debarred from any Government agency / authority / department (without bearing any responsibility on NADRA whatsoever in this regard).
- Pictures of the building offered for lease.
- Valid Site Plan / Map of the building duly approved from concerned authority.
- In case of absence of owner, authority letter for representative duly signed by property owner, permitting him to attend tender process.

Financial Bid (Separate Envelop):

- Owner's consent showing monthly rent & offered area of the building.
- Quoted price shall be inclusive of all taxes.
- No brokerage / service charges will be paid in case of real estate agent.
- Opening date / time of Financial Proposal will be informed to all successful bidders of General Proposal Evaluation.

Director (Admin)

NADRA Regional Head Office, Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
EOBI Building, Plot No. 31 Sector B-1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar
Telephone: 091-9217840

PID(I) 2916/23



206,018 foreigners repatriated: KP govt — 22347 illegal foreigners identified

PESHAWAR (APP): The repatriation of illegal Afghans immigrants continued through Torkham border of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and that 206,018 illegal immigrants repatriated since September 17, 2023.

KP Home Department spokesman told APP on Monday that a total of 16,530 families including 58,046 male, 45,192 female and 102,780 children were repatriated till November 12, 2023.

The mapping (identification) of 23,471 illegal Afghans in major cities were completed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On November 12 last, 3,043 illegal foreigners were repatriated through Torkham border.

The Government has provided free transport services and other facilities to illegal immigrants during repatriation from Landi Kotal holding camp upto Torkham border in Khyber district.

Meanwhile, the Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has compiled data of illegal foreigners including Afghans residing in major cities of the province and sent it to the Ministry of Interior.

According to the report of the Home Department, as many as 22347 Afghans were still residing illegally in 32 districts of the province including 17832 in Peshawar, 1523 in Khyber, 1228 in Kohat, 607 in Lower Waziristan and others in Batagram, Tank, Torgar, Kohistan Swabi and Mansehra.

The Home Department said that so far 206,018 people of 16,530 Afghan families have voluntarily returned to their own country adding that 3,043 persons returned home via Torkham Bard on November 12.

During the repatriation process some 149 illegal residents were also deported.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali leading a walk of awareness campaign on eve International Day of Sugar.

Experts call for multi-sectoral dialogue — to prevent diabetes, obesity

PESHAWAR (APP): Novo Nordisk Pakistan in collaboration with the Embassy of Denmark in Pakistan and Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar organized a policy dialogue on World Diabetes Day 2023 here on Monday.

Policy makers, Government departments, UN, NGOs, academia, media, medical associations, and corporations developed a joint call to action on diabetes and obesity prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyle.

The policy dialogue was attended by Nadeem Aslam Chief Secretary, Jakob Linulf Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Muhammad Yahya Akhuzada, Joint Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs, Rashed Rafique Butt, Vice President and General Manager Novo Nordisk Pakistan including other dignitaries.

Prof. Dr. AH Aamir, Project Director D-TALK and Insulin for Life Program and HOD Endocrinology Unit, Hayatabad Medical Complex, Govt. of KP briefed the audience about the growing challenge of diabetes and obesity in Pakistan and efforts to tackle it.

He highlighted that the government is committed to tackle the increasing burden through concerted efforts to improve the health status of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking at the occasion, the Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf appreciated the efforts made by the Government of KP and their approach to deal with the diabetes and obesity burden.

His words were echoed by Mr. Rashed Rafique Butt, Vice President & General Manager of Novo Nordisk Pakistan, who further highlighted the importance of Public Private Partnership to counter chronic diseases like diabetes.

The policy dialogue resulted in the development and agreement on a set of recommendations highlighting areas for multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen capacity, leadership, governance and partnerships to accelerate provincial response for the prevention and control of diabetes and obesity.

PESCO notified power suspension

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Monday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Warsak Power House-Peshawar Cantt transmission line on 14th November from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Consequently, it said consumers of Peshawar Cantt and Peshawar University grid connected feeders will face inconvenience. The Power Supply will also remain suspended from Peshawar University Grid Station on 14th and 17th November from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of University Campus, Canal Town, Malakandher, Engineering, Regi, Taj Abad 1,2, Agriculture, Mera Achini, HMC, Ring Road, Danish Abad, Gharib Abad, Rahat Abad 1, CMB, Abdara, Achini 1, Hussain Zai, Sufaid Dheri, Old Bara Road, JAF, Academy Town, DHA, Aksari 6 and Commercial Balding feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, it said power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City Grid Station on 15th and 20th November from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of Sikanandari Pura, Lala, Hashtnagari, Chugulpura, Chamkani, Jaghra, Radio Pakistan, Sethi Town, Gulbahar, Zaryab, Pandho Road, City Homes, Baghbanan, Urmar, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Shiekh Abad, Molve Je, Nishtar Abad and NHA feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Kohat Road Grid Station on 15th and 20th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Abad, Sunehri Masjid, Banamari, Audit Colony, Civil Quarter, Nauthia, Murshid Abad, Abasin, Deh Bahadar, Kohat Road, Amin Colony, Bara, Nodeh Payan, Dora Road, Landi Arbab, Sheikh Muhammadi, Pishtakhara, Swati Gate, Gul Berg and Scheme Chowk feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply, it said will also remain suspended from Mardan Grid Station on 15th November from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. resultantly consumers of Dobian, Hussai, Daggar and Swabi grid connected feeders will face inconvenience.



PESHAWAR: Ex-MPA Arif Yousaf Advocate addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

ANP announces 2 candidates

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced two more candidates for the national assembly elections and one for provincial assembly.

According to official release issued here Monday, Pir Haroon Shah would contest general elections as ANP candidate from NA-31 Peshawar while Noor Aslam Khan Afridi would contest the elections from NA 35 Kohat.

Similarly, Dr Naveed-ullah Khan would contest provincial assembly elections on ANP ticket from PK 82 Peshawar.

Chairman Parliamentary Board Amil Wali Khan has approved the names of the candidates in consultation with the members, it said.

KP govt vows support for journalists F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information and Public Relations Department Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah on Monday highlighted the government's commitment to addressing challenges faced by journalists in the province and fostering the growth of journalism.

This assurance was given during a discussion with Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik, who extended congratulations to Shah on his Grade 21 promotion.

The meeting, attended by Additional Secretary Information Aleem Khan, Director General Information Muhammad Imran, Deputy Secretary Information Muhammad Khurram, and former Peshawar Press Club President M. Riaz, focused on Shah's insights into journalist welfare and the government's initiatives to advance journalism.

Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik expressed gratitude to Secretary Abdul Jabbar Shah for supporting the club in promoting the well-being of working journalists.

Smuggler awarded life imprisonment

PESHAWAR (APP): Additional Sessions Judge, Abdul Qayyum Siddiqui here on Monday awarded life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 0.5 million to an accused, involved in smuggling of narcotics.

According to prosecution and police the court also issued permanent arrest warrants for another absconding accused of the case.

The accused named Shah Fahad was arrested red-handed at Bara Qadeem check post while attempting to smuggle 37kg of opium in a Toyota Hiace vehicle.

A companion of the arrested accused, identified as Abdul Wahab, managed to escape the arrest and was declared proclaimed offender by the police.

A case under Narcotics Act 2019 was registered against the accused that was decided by the Sessions Court today.

GPS awarded prizes to students F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Government Primary School (GPS) Samarbagh Peshawar held the results of the first term examinations, prizes were distributed among the position holders through in an event, on Monday.

In addition to Headmaster Altaf Hussain, teachers and parents also participated in the event. Apart from this, the teachers with the best performance were given certificates of appreciation by the school leader.

The chief guest of the ceremony was the school leader Mohsin Malik. School leader Mohsin Malik said that primary schools are striving for quality education. Teachers strive for quality education by utilizing available resources. By the grace of Allah, people's trust in government schools is increasing.



PESHAWAR: Police officials presenting guard of honour to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Arshad Hussain Shah at Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Level-playing field, a right of every political party

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial President Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha Monday said that level playing field was fundamental right of every political party in elections.

In a statement issued here, he stressed the need for removing reservations of all political parties in that regard.

He said that PPP was neither afraid of electoral alliances nor the meeting of political rivals as it only wanted the announcement of election schedule and holding free, fair and impartial elections.

The decision of the election of the Prime Minister of the country should be made by the people, adding PPP never used backdoor to come into power.

The PPP leader said that PPP under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto would vigorously participate in the elections in all the provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha expressed confidence in general elections on February 08, 2024, PPP would emerge as majority parliamentary party.

He observed that after assuming power, the party would guarantee equal constitutional, economic and human rights in a democratic manner.

He said that PPP did not believe in conversion of political difference to animosity, adding that the fake revolutionaries had become unnerved even before the final launch of the election campaign by the Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The PPP leader said that the popularity of the party was on rise and none of the political parties had courage to face it single handedly.

He said that political maneuvering against PPP before general elections was not new for it.

He said that the leadership and workers of PPP had rendered historic sacrifices for supremacy of democracy, constitution and the parliamentary democratic system in the country.

Caretaker Minister performs Umrah for Late Azam Khan

PESHAWAR: Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Minister of Information and Public Relations for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, undertook an Umrah at the Haram Mosque, specifically dedicating this umra to the late Muhammad Azam Khan, former Caretaker Chief Minister of KP. Kakakhel also visited the Rasool's grave in Madina, offered prayers, he sought forgiveness and elevated status for Muhammad Azam Khan.

In an official statement, the KP Caretaker Information Minister expressed his deep respect for the compassionate nature of the late Muhammad Azam Khan, emphasizing the dedication and efforts Azam Khan invested during his tenure as caretaker chief minister.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel conveyed condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for their patience in coping with the loss.

It's noteworthy that Minister Kakakhel, during his stay in Makkah after an official visit to London, performed Umrah for Hazrat Kakasahib (Sheikh Rahmkar Sahib) in Masjid al-Haram.

Upon learning about Azam Khan's passing during his return journey from London, Minister Kakakhel expressed profound sadness, describing the news as nothing short of a shock.

Following a visit to the Rasool's shrine, he returned to Makkah, where he performed a special Umrah at Masjid al-Haram dedicated to the late Muhammad Azam Khan, accompanied by prayers for his redemption.

In paying homage to Muhammad Azam Khan, the late former Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Minister Kakakhel acknowledged Azam Khan's selfless service spanning five decades. He said "After completing his education in London, Azam Khan returned to Pakistan, leaving an indelible mark on the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Minister Kakakhel praised Azam Khan's active role from the establishment of the caretaker government to his demise, citing effective leadership, wisdom, transparency, and the establishment of meritocracy in the province's financial and administrative affairs within a short period.

Training for minority students organized

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) appointed Assistant Director Tourism police Syed Hasnian Shah as Public Relation Officer (PRO), on Monday.

DG KPCTA appointed Syed Hasnian Ali Shah as PRO of the authority. In this regard KPCTA issued a notification for the posting.

The Assistant Director Tourism police Syed Hasnian Ali Shah took charge as PRO KPCTA.

The training programme provided skills to the youth of the minority community to initiate professional life, principles of employment, effective communication procedures and enhance their personality and present them in a better way.

The training on skills in specific matters is being imparted under the second phase of the provincial government's "Capacity Building and Employability Skills Training Program".

Describing the training programme as useful, the youth said that such projects provide an opportunity to the youth of the minority community to showcase their skills. There has been a lack of this training for the minority community. This effort will surely bring about a change. A cake cutting ceremony was organized on "Iqbal Day" at training camp.

At the end of the training camp, the participants were given certificates and the guests were given commemorative shields.

mia College University), Dr Fayyaz Ali Shah Professor Islamia College University, Dr Sonia Sethi Professor Islamia College University, Prof Dr Naveed Director Quataba University Peshawar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peshawar Saddam Hussain, Dr Muhammad Riaz Professor Comsats University Attock Campus, Prof Dr Shuja Ahmed Chairman Department of Philosophy Peshawar University, Prof Dr Wasif Jamal Professor IM Sciences Peshawar attended the training camp and gave information to the students on various training topics.

Under the programme, training is being imparted on communication skills, leadership skills, entrepreneurship, CV making training, training for interviews, career counseling and preparation for competitive exams.

Planning Officer of Minority Affairs Department Sahibzada Haider Jan and Monitoring Officer Mian Asjad paid special visits to the camp to review the arrangements.

Hasnian appointed PRO KPCTA



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) appointed Assistant Director Tourism police Syed Hasnian Shah as Public Relation Officer (PRO), on Monday.

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Dry weather predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Monday predicted that mainly dry weather is expected in most districts of the province, while cold in the hilly areas.

It said that foggy conditions are expected over Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Peshawar, Swabi and D.I. Khan districts, as well as, over Motorway (M1) and Highways in late night and morning. Travelers on Motorway and highways were advised to take precautionary measures.

During the last 24 hours cold and dry weather occurred in most districts of the province. Rainfall recorded in millimeters at different stations of the KP was nil.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of KP were Peshawar 26/11, Chitral 23/02, Timergara 27/09, Dir 24/02, Mirkhani 23/05, Kalam 17/-02, Drosh 20/07, Saidu Sharif 24/06, Pattan 27/11, Malam Jabba 15/04, Takht Bhai 26/10, Kakul 20/05, Balakot 24/06, Parachinar 16/04, Bannu 26/10, Cherat 19/10, DI Khan City 27/14.



In brief

Dr Ghaffar complets Ph. D F.P. Report

KHAR: Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Khan hailing from Bajaur has achieved a significant academic milestone by successfully completing his Ph.D. in Livestock Management from the University of Agriculture, Peshawar. The culmination of his academic journey was marked by a well-received exit seminar defense. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar groundbreaking research delved into the "Evaluation of Beef Parameters and Growth Factors in Selected Breeds of cattle and Buffaloes in Pakistan." This comprehensive thesis not only garnered attention locally but also received acclaim on an international level. Professors from esteemed institutions in the United States and Italy evaluated and praised the depth of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar research. The culmination of this academic endeavor saw Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Khan's thesis being accepted in both Italy and the United States, underscoring the global significance of his contributions to the field of livestock management. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar dedication to advancing knowledge in livestock management reflects not only his personal commitment but also the excellence of the academic programs at the University of Agriculture, Peshawar. His accomplishment serves as an inspiration to aspiring researchers and underscores the global impact of research originating from Pakistan.

PTC holds meeting in Dir F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: It is high time to bring the medical professionals on a single platform and develop their skills for humanities services. These views were expressed by the provincial president of the Pakistan Tibbi Conference (PTC) Hakeem Abdul Wahid Shamsi during a meeting of the council held at Chakdara here on Monday. Hakeem Shahid Iqbal from Battagram, Hakeem Gul Nawaz Khan from Swat, Hakeem Muhammad Zeeshan Waheed from Dera Ismail Khan, Hakeem Muhammad Jamal Khan from Mardan, Hakeem Khidmat Hussain from Peshawar, Hakeem Furqan Khalid from Abbottabad, Hakeem Sartaj Nabi from Mardan, Ms Shakira Shaheen from Peshawar and Hakeem Noor Faqir from Lower Dir attended the meeting. Hakeem Abdul Wahid emphasized the need to increase membership of the PTC in the entire province and said that like-minded practitioners should be made members. Other participants proposed to expand the re-organization of the Conference at tehsil and district level in the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to make it an effective body. They said that committees should be formed at tehsil level to include the members in their ranks. The cabinet expressed its determination that it would use all their abilities for the promotion of Greek medicine in the entire province and to solve the problems faced by 'hakims'.

Two killed in road mishap

SHUJABAD (INP): Two persons, including a woman, were killed and another was critically injured in collision between a speeding van and motorcycle in Shujabad. According to details, the accident occurred in Issa Wali Pull area of Shujabad where a rashly-driven van hit a motorcycle, killing a woman and a youth on the spot and injuring another person.

MDCAT examination Transparency in centres to be ensured

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Strict measures imposed to ensure fairness and discourage cheat in MDCAT-2023 exam. Ban on pocket guides, mobile phones, digital gadgets and other prohibited materials that lose the fairness of examination.

In response to reported incidents of cheating during the recent MDCAT-2023 exams, the Deputy Commissioner of Mardan has taken decisive action. With a focus on maintaining integrity and preventing unfair practices, the Deputy Commissioner, exercising authority under section 144 Cr.P.C., has imposed a comprehensive ban within the premises of the Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan test center.

The ban will be effective from November 25, 2023, to November 26, 2023. This ban encompasses various items such as books, guides, solved papers, digital diaries, and even mobile phones, extending to all individuals, including staff and police personnel. The objective is clear to create an environment free from any materials that could facilitate dishonest means during the test.

Any violation of this order will be dealt with under section 188 P.P.C., ensuring strict consequences for those who defy the regulations. The move is part of a larger strategy outlined in the administrative preparation plan by the Home & Tribal Affairs Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to guarantee the peaceful and fair conduct of the MDCAT-2023.

The Deputy Commissioner of Mardan emphasized the importance of upholding the sanctity of the examination process and expressed determination to address the challenges posed by cheating and the use of electronic devices. This proactive approach aims to restore confidence among students and parents, assuring them that measures are in place to prevent a recurrence of such incidents in future exams.

As the ban takes effect, candidates, staff, and visitors are urged to comply with the regulations to avoid legal consequences. The Deputy Commissioner, underlining the seriousness of the matter, issued this order to safeguard the credibility of the MDCAT-2023 and maintain the standards of a fair and transparent examination system.

In the aftermath of a scandal involving electronic devices and cheating materials during the previous Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT), the Peshawar High Court has intervened, issuing a verdict to conduct a retest. The widespread public outcry prompted concerned citizens to take the matter to the court, seeking justice and fairness in the examination process.

Reports revealed that in the last MDCAT exam, several candidates were found in possession of electronic devices and materials designed for cheating. This alarming situation raised questions about the integrity of the exam and the admission process for medical and dental colleges.

The issue gained significant traction on social media platforms, with the public

expressing their discontent and demanding action to rectify the situation. Faced with mounting pressure, citizens collectively filed a case in the Peshawar High Court, urging a thorough investigation and a fair resolution to restore confidence in the examination system.

After careful deliberation, the Peshawar High Court delivered a verdict, ordering the retesting of the MDCAT exam to ensure fairness and merit in the admission process. The court's decision reflects a commitment to upholding the standards of transparency and integrity in educational assessments.

The retest is seen as a crucial step towards addressing the concerns raised by the public and reinstating trust in the credibility of the MDCAT. Educational authorities are expected to implement stringent measures to prevent a recurrence of cheating incidents, fostering an environment conducive to honest and merit-based evaluations.

The court's intervention serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining the sanctity of academic examinations and upholding the rights of candidates who strive for a fair chance at securing admission to medical and dental colleges. As preparations for the retest are underway, stakeholders, including educational institutions and students, are keenly observing the developments to ensure that the revised examination process remains untainted by the issues of the past.

BISE Mardan postpones science gala: Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) has postponed the science gala to be held on November 21 due to the death of Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan, while Chairman Board Farid Ahmad Khattak attended the funeral of the former Chief Minister and laid flowers on the grave of the late Chief Minister and wished him high grades.

According to the requested details, in the light of the government's decision to mourn the death of the caretaker chief minister in the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, the national flag was flown at half-mast. The Chairman Board of Fatiha Khawani stayed with the grieving family for some time and later visited the grave of former Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan, who was buried in Charsada cemetery, and offered his condolences to his son Sikandar Khan and other bereaved families.

Along with the Chairman, Admin Officer Kamran Taj, Chief Coordinator Shah Sahib Superintendent Muhammad Ifitikhar Khan and others were present along with the Chairman who laid flowers on the grave and recited Fatiha for his elevation. Board Secretary Inamullah Toru, Admin Officer Kamran Taj, Jamia Abdul Wali Director Tariq Mehmood and Government Post Graduate College Principal Prof. Mohammad Abrar attended the meeting and paid tribute to the services of the former Chief Minister. Chairman Board Farid Ahmed Khattak said that the former chief minister had many services for the province and the nation which will always be remembered will be announced later.



KOTRI: Police officials investigating illegal Afghan immigrants during raid.

ANP hopeful for victory in Buner

F.P. Report

BUNER: Awami National Party (ANP) NA 10 candidate Haji Rouf Khan and PK 25 candidate Afsar Khan have claimed winning the upcoming general elections scheduled on 8th February 2024.

Talking to media persons at press club on Monday they invited the press club members to the ANP work-

ers compensation convention to be held at Gadezai Playground on 16th this month. The ANP Aimal Wali Khan and Sardar Babak with others key leaders would address this convention, they added.

The ANP candidates claimed this convention would prove party strength in the district and claimed the ANP candidates would win the upcoming general

elections. NA candidate Haji Rouf Khan promised of gas for Buner and completion the Salarzai grid station and other mega programmes when elected.

He asked public for supporting him and ANP PK candidates Afsar Khan Qaisar Wali Khan and Sardar Babak for fighting their rights and progress prosperity and peace for Pakhtun and Pakhtun soul.

GHSS Bagra secures 18 positions in intra-school competitions

F.P. Report

A B B O T T A B A D : Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bagra won 19 positions in Literary and Athletics during intra-schools competitions.

According to details, GHSS Bagra secures 1st positions in Naat, National Anthem, Hindko speech, Science Chart and 2nd

positions in songs, Visualization, Urdu, Arabic Speech, Urdu. The school secured 3rd positions in English calligraphy, English essay.

GHSS became the zonal champion in Naat, national anthem, science chart and Hindi speech while he got 8th position in athletics. Muhammad Yasir, Arshad Amin Khan, Yasir Khan,

Muhabur Rehman, Naveed Akhtar, Abdul Waheed, Mohsin Ali Khan, Abdul Wahab, Naeem Moradabadi, Qari Muhammad Khalid have appreciated the tireless work and hope that the same will be done in the future in more co-curricular activities. They will continue to make bright the name of their organization.



TIRAH VALLEY: Displaced persons loaded their household at donkeys' leaving home due to possible operation in the area. - F.P. photo

AWKUM employees argued Governor for action F.P. Report

MARDAN: A peaceful protest organized by the All Employees Association under the supervision of Chairman Muzamil Khan unfolded today at the Garden Campus of Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan.

Addressing the crowd, Muzamil Khan, along with President Adnan Saeed, Senior Vice President Jawad Sanger, General Secretary Inam Afridi, Focal Person Umer Ali Shah, Media Incharge Ali Khan, Vice President Abid Ali, Ajmal Shah, Ashfaq Habib, and Papu Khan, extended special thanks to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and Provincial General Secretary of Traders and President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce Zahid Shah for their dedicated efforts and commitment to resolving issues faced by university employees.

In light of Governor Haji Ghulam Ali's assurance, the All Employees Association administration announces the postponement of the protest, expressing confidence in successful negotiations and the fulfillment of demands. The administration commits to continue the strike until the acceptance of demands, leaving pens down in offices.

While reporting on the protest, organizers stated that next week, a delegation from the All Employees Association will meet Governor Haji Ghulam Ali at the Governor House in Peshawar. During the meeting, they plan to brief him on all their issues and will persist with the strike until the demands are met. The organizers also called for fair investigations into corruption and misconduct allegations, urging institutions such as NAB, FIA, Anti-Corruption, and others to conduct a just inquiry into the alleged corruption and mistreatment amounting to millions at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan.

High rank brings greater responsibilities F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood Satti has said that departmental promotion is the right of dutiful employees, however, the promotion increases the duties and responsibilities, on Monday.

This he said while addressing the ceremony of police officers who were promoted to the rank of Inspector from Sub-Inspector at his office. He said that the first gift of duty in the world is departmental promotion, to progress is the desire and basic right of every human being, but this happiness of getting progress becomes double at that time when a person realizes to fulfill the responsibilities of the next rank.

RPO said police officers, you got the gift of recognition at the first rank in the form of departmental promotion from the department. He said, It is now your responsibility to ensure the safety of the lives and property of the public as per the requirements of the next rank responsibilities and duties.

Tribesmen to leave Tirah in wake of operation

F.P. Report

TIRAH VALLEY: Due to possible forces operation against militants, temporary displacement of tribesmen has started from various localities of Tirah Valley and the government has set 18, November 2023, as the deadline for them.

It is to be mentioned here that launching a possible military operation against militants, the government asked residents of Sandapal, Dray Naghray, Baghray, Bagh Ram, Khapoor, Jarobi and Daroota. Local sources said on Monday that as per the government warning to leave their homes, approximately three hundred families so far had left their residences and taken refuge

downtown in Bara and other adjacent areas.

The official sources informed that the tribesmen will be displaced for short term to avoid civilian casualties in the forces operation. Registration of the affected families initiated at Sukh point and transportation, food and other necessary commodities would be provided to them, sources said.

Dwellers of the villages where possible military action will be carried out approved the forces operation however they urged to conclude it as soon as possible as long term fight will damage their properties including crops and orchards.

Abdul Mateen, Qari Qismat, Sidra Hasan and

others in a press conference held in the local press club asked the government to conduct targeted operations in their area and demanded the concerned authorities to set up camp in neighboring areas to settle the displaced people.

They also insisted on providing them transport, food and other facilities as they had left their homes in a hurry, leaving everything behind them. Residents of the areas also requested to extend the deadline because the locality was hilly, inaccessible in addition with lack of transport facility. It is to be mentioned here that last week in based military operation conducted in Sandapal including a Lieutenant Colonel three troops had martyred.

Finality of prophethood on Muhammad (PBUH) in syllabus demanded

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The provincial chief of the Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatm e Nabowat Mufti Shahabud Din Popalzai has said that the belief in the finality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of the Muslims' faith under which there will be no prophet after him. He stated this while addressing a 'khatam e Nabowat' conference at the Timergara Rest house ground as chief guest here the other day. The conference was also addressed by Maulana Muhammad Imran Haqqani, Timergara tehsil chairman Mufti Irfanul Din, Peer Azizul Haq and others.

Mufti Popalzai said that activities of the Ahmadias had increased in parts of the country. He said the government should announce a boycott of the products manufactured by the Israeli and Ahmadias' industries in Pakistan. He alleged that some western powers were supporting the Ahmadias in Pakistan under a conspiracy which could not be tolerated. He said the Muslim across the globe were ready to go to any extent on the belief of the finality of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

He said the Ahmadias had been declared as non-Muslim under the 1973 constitution, so they should not call themselves as Muslim. The speakers demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to include the finality of the Holy Prophet (SAW) in school syllabus.

Jirga resolves dispute:

A local jirga of elders resolved a feud between two families at Rani Sangar village. A youth identified as Nizamullah was killed by a car driver in a road accident at Danwa on Oct. 28. A jirga led by former president of the district bar Timergara advocate Jehan Bahadar started efforts to resolve the matter. Other members of the jirga were Fazal Khaliq, Ahmad Khan, Mian Saidawar Khan, Mufti Saadullah and Maulana Muhammad Jamil. The jirga succeeded to end the enmity between the families.

A function in this regard was held at Rani Sangar during which the rivals promised to live like brothers in future. The victim's family forgave the killer unconditionally. The function was attended by station house officer Khall Sahibzada Khan, area elders, relatives of both the families and jirga members.

IJT demands restoration of student's union: The Islami Jamiat Tulba provincial nazim Waseem Haidar has asked the government to restore students' unions and increase the budget for higher education in the country.

Flanked by the IJT Malakand nazim Taimur Khan, Mr Waseem told a press conference at the Chakdara press club that the IJT would continue its struggle against students' harassment at universities and drug abuse. He announced the IJT had planned to hold a massive students' gathering at the

University of Peshawar on Nov. 22 for resolution of their problems.

The IJT leader said that several universities were faced with economic crises. He alleged that the varsities had become a center of sexual harassment and drugs' abuse due to inefficiency of the government and concerned authorities. He said the successive governments did nothing for promotion of education and enhancing its standard in the country.

He said that colleges and universities needed about 14000 more teachers to provide proper education to the BS students. He demanded the government to provide more teachers to the universities and colleges and restore students' union in the country.

Youth killed in mishap

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): A youth was killed with an over speeding tractor trolley hit a motorcycle near Chak Mahar Sharif in Bahawalnagar on Monday.

According to details, a reckless driven tractor trolley knocked down a motorcycle. Bike rider youth was killed on the spot in the accident and driver responsible fled the scene. The body was shifted to hospital for post-mortem. The police impounded the tractor trolley and after registering a case against the driver at large started raids for his arrest.



QUETTA: Activists of Zamindar Action Committee holding a protest rally in favour of their demands.



Latvia’s president says West must arm Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Latvia's president says Russia is planning for a long war in Ukraine and he has a message for countries wavering on continuing military support to Kyiv: Keep supplying arms or the Ukrainians will lose and Russia will have a green light for threatening others in the future. Edgars Rink?vi?s said in an interview with The Associated Press that "it is important to actually fight for international peace, and peace in Europe, because if we stop Russia in Ukraine, then Russia is not going to be able to challenge other countries."

He pointed to the disruptive role that Russia's Wagner mercenary group is playing in Africa and to Russian meetings with officials from Hamas, the Gaza Strip's ruling militants whose surprise attack in Israel on Oct. 7 killed some 1,200 people. In July, Rink?vi?s was sworn in as president of Latvia, which was part of the Soviet Union until its break-up in August 1991. The Baltic nation, population 1.9 million, in 2004 joined both the European Union and NATO, holding a key point on their eastern flank with its 214-kilometer (133-mile) border with Russia. Rink?vi?s, who was Latvia's foreign minister for 13 years before being elected president, said that despite some members of the 27-nation EU having "their opinions," at the end of the day the alliance has agreed on sanctioning Russia and on providing more support to Ukraine over Russia's February 2022 invasion. "Interestingly enough, at this point, the EU is more divided when it comes to the Middle East, rather than to Ukraine," he said in interview.

He said it is important for the West to support both Ukraine and Israel against attacks on "our values" and the international order. He also stressed the need to push for humanitarian pauses in the Gaza fighting to provide assistance to Palestinian civilians, whose death toll in Israel's retaliation for the Hamas attack has topped 11,000, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Rink?vi?s said Iran is "very pleased to see this kind of development in the Middle East," and pointed to Tehran's supply of arms and other equipment to Russia for its fight in Ukraine. It's in NATO's security interests "that both cases are viewed the same way," he said. "I do believe also that it will be much easier for us to keep peace in Europe if Ukraine succeeds rather than we let Ukraine down, or for that matter, also to let the situation in the Middle East to get out of control." Rink?vi?s said Ukrainian soldiers are fight-

ing "in a very brave way" and the West has the responsibility to respond to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's appeal for more weapons, "because we have not provided as much as we should have." He said Russia is mobilizing its economy, resources and military machinery "for a very long war." It tried to win the war quickly and realized it can't, and now Moscow wants to "strangle" Ukraine, he said, predicting it will reprise attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in the coming months, as it did last winter. Rink?vi?s said the EU and NATO need to prepare for a long war in Ukraine.

"The EU has realized that we need more defense and military," he said. "And at this point, I would love to see that this is going to be a bit faster process. But still, those things are now finally moving." But many European members of NATO still need to reach the target of spending 2% of GDP on defense, he said, adding that Latvia expects to spend 2.4% of GDP on defense next year and 3% in 2027. Europe's defense industrial production needs to be increased, he added. Many experts and officials have said Russian President Vladimir Putin's hope is to outlast Western support for Ukraine in a long war. "I think this is very important that he fails," Rink?vi?s said. If the world sees that Europe and the United States are failing to provide support to Ukraine, he said, "then I think that is going to be increasing pressure on Israel."

"Also, I think that Iran is going to be more assertive," he said. "Let's also not forget about the whole Asia region, and let's not forget about Taiwan." The Latvian leader said Russia is turning from an autocracy to a totalitarian regime and resorting to propaganda worse than the Cold War. They are showing "brutal pictures or video or animation videos about destroying cities in Europe, or the United States, using nuclear weapons, saying that the use of nuclear weapons is actually just a piece of cake," he said. They are calling Ukrainians "kind of a lower human race - it's very much resembling what Nazi Germany was saying about the Jews," he added. Rink?vi?s, who is in New York to launch Latvia's bid for a UN Security Council seat in 2026-2027, announced in 2014 that he is gay and is one of Europe's few LGBTQ+ heads of state. If people can accept a gay head of state, Rink?vi?s said, "then I believe that very quickly also they are going to be more inclusive, more open to the whole community. That's the message also I hope will be received everywhere else."

Protesters span gamut of political issues

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters): A lively crowd gathered in San Francisco to protest a meeting of cross-Pacific political leaders and a wide spectrum of other issues, prominently including those calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. Protesters converged on the plaza in front of San Francisco's ferry building, the gateway to the city, carrying banners and posters opposing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, calling for economic and environmental change, and waving Palestinian flags.

Others were opposed to the oil industry and supported labor activists and immigrants' rights, and the crowd stretched for several blocks along the Market Street thoroughfare when the march began late afternoon. Hand-beaten drums set the atmosphere. The home of 1960s countercul-

ture, San Francisco has retained an anti-authoritarian sensibility even as tech companies and employees have made the city a global influencer. Police expect multiple protests over the coming week at APEC, which accelerates with the second meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping since Biden took office in January 2021. The action could become confrontational, with protesters calling to block attendees from entering the San Francisco conference center.

"Our community is in chaos," said Roberto Ruiz, 53, a musician at the ferry plaza who said the funding used to support the leadership summit should have been used to help the poor. "We have people in the streets who have no homes. This money could definitely have gone to them," he said. As many as 3,000 peo-

ple may live on the streets, according to data from a 2022 count published on the city's website. San Francisco is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic slower than many cities, with some major retailers abandoning Market Street. San Francisco tourism is much reduced from pre-pandemic levels, according to data from hotel analytics firm STR published in June. Student Sarah R, 21, who declined to give her last name, said she had come to send a message to Biden and other leaders in support of Palestinians facing "genocide". Israel has bombed the Gaza Strip in retaliation for the Oct. 7 attack on Israel from Gaza by Hamas militants. Geoscience engineer Marty Brewer, 56, urged a fast response to the climate crisis. "So far we are failing to address this emergency," he said.

Scott, lone Black Republican in US Senate, ends bid

WASHINGTON (Reuters): US Senator Tim Scott suspended his run for the 2024 Republican presidential election nomination after months of burning through campaign cash at a blistering rate without making a significant dent in national opinion polls.

"I think the voters, who are the most remarkable people on the planet, have been really clear that they're telling me: 'Not now Tim,'" Scott told Fox News in an interview. His exit may provide a modest boost for other candidates trying to dislodge frontrunner and former President Donald Trump from the top spot, namely former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

In the moments after Scott dropped out, two major donors to his campaign told Reuters they would switch their support to Haley, who like Scott hails from the state of South Carolina. The lone Black Republican in the US Senate, Scott began his campaign in May, promising to present an optimistic, forward-looking vision for America. He portrayed himself as a deeply conservative

candidate who was more capable of healing political divisions in the United States than Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. While Scott enjoyed a modest, but measurable bump in opinion polls in some states over the summer, he failed to establish and defend a lane for himself in a relatively crowded field.

Like other candidates, he never articulated to Trump supporters why they should move on from the former president, who is still well liked by most primary voters. Among the donors that supported Scott but are now switching to Haley's camp are metals magnate Andy Sabin and New York-based litigator Eric Levine. Levine said he planned to host a fundraiser for Haley. "I will support Nikki Haley enthusiastically," Levine said.

A third Scott donor, California-based commercial real estate banker Jeff Burns, said he had yet to make up his mind, but was leaning towards Haley. While Scott was always considered a long shot, he entered the race with some significant assets. Many major donors support-

ed him, in part because they believed he would have a high chance of beating Democratic President Joe Biden if he were to emerge as the Republican nominee. They were also turned off by DeSantis' often-confrontational attitude toward big business and opposition to US involvement in the war in Ukraine. During the first presidential debate in August, Scott failed to stand out, while Haley received plaudits from voters and donors for her combative performance. Subsequent debates proved similarly lackluster for Scott, who was soon surpassed by Haley in most state- and national-level polls.

Scott shifted tactics in the fall months and began adopting more confrontational rhetoric toward both Democrats and other R e p u b l i c a n contenders. After the Oct. 7 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel, for instance, he said that Biden had "blood on his hands" for failing to do more to prevent it, even as Israel itself was caught off-guard by the incursion.

Kogi and Imo states won by Nigeria’s APC

NAIROBI (BBC): Nigeria's ruling party has won governorship elections in two states, amid reports of low turnout, violence and rigging. The All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates won in both Imo, in the south-east, and central Kogi state. There were reports of fraud in parts of Kogi but the electoral commission said this was not enough to affect the overall outcome.

The results from the southern Bayelsa state have been delayed until Monday. This is because votes are still being counted in some areas following vote. Under Nigeria's federal system, governors control huge budgets - larger than those of some countries in West Africa.

However, there have been numerous reports that some of this money has been stolen. Some former governors have been prosecuted and jailed for misappropriation of funds and money laundering. In Imo state, Hope Uzodinma won with more than 540,000 votes, Samuel Anyanwu of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) came second with 71,500 votes, with the Labour Party's Athan Nneji Achonu third on 64,000. Some Imo residents were seen queuing to buy water rather than going to vote as a strike has cut supplies of drinking water and electricity. In Kogi state, the APC's Ahmed Usman Ododo got 446,000 votes, Alhaji Muritala Ajaka, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) came second with 260,000, while the PDP's Dino Melaye got 46,000.

Two people accused of trying to steal ballot boxes were reportedly shot dead. The electoral body initially said fresh elections would be needed in parts of the state following opposition allegations that the results had been written before voting had even started. It later announced that the number of registered voters in these areas was smaller than Mr Ododo's margin of victory so the reruns were cancelled. Some clashes were reported in Bayelsa state during voting. An electoral official was abducted a day before the polls before being released. These elections are seen as a test of how much confidence people still have in the electoral process after February's presidential election results were challenged by the two main opposition candidates. They had alleged irregularities and sought to have the results overturned in court. But President Bola Tinubu's election victory was upheld, with the judges saying the opposition had failed to present any evidence of rigging.

‘Independence March’ draws thousands

WARSAW: Thousands joined a march by nationalist groups in Poland's capital Warsaw in what organisers described as the "largest patriotic demonstration in Europe". Participants carried Poland's white-and-red flag and some burned flares and held Celtic crosses as they marched along a route leading from the city centre to the National Stadium.

The event, held every year as Poland celebrates its Independence Day holiday, took place less than a month after the pro-European opposition secured a majority in parliamentary elections. While many patriotic events take place across the nation of 38 million each year, the yearly Independence March has come to dominate news coverage because it has sometimes been marred by xenophobic slogans and violence.

The event has, in the past drawn, far-right sympathisers from other European countries, including Hungary and Italy. Among those taking part this year was Paul Golding, the leader of Britain First, a small far-right party in the United Kingdom. Football supporters were prominent among the marchers, some holding banners with far-right slogans.

Anti-abortion rights groups were also present at the event, where Christian symbols were on display. Police removed climate protesters who placed themselves along the route of the march. — Aljazeera

Indonesian staff at Gaza hospital ‘resigned to fate’ as Israelis close in

MEDAN: At this time of the year, it should be strawberry season in the Gaza Strip. Instead, the fields traditionally planted with strawberries in September and harvested from November are now battlefields. One of the most fertile regions for Palestine's renowned strawberries is Beit Lahia, with its good climate, rich soil and high-quality water supplies.

Located in north Gaza, Beit Lahia is also the home of the Indonesia Hospital where medical volunteer from Indonesia Fikri Rofihul Haq is based with the Indonesian humanitarian organisation the Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (MER-C). "The Israeli forces have been bombing fields across the Gaza Strip and a lot of crops have died", Haq told Al Jazeera.

"This year, there won't be the usual produce like strawberries, even though it is the winter season," he said. Amid the horror of Israel's war on Gaza, the destruction of Palestine's strawberry harvest may seem insignificant. But for Haq - one of three Indonesian MER-C volunteers based at the Indonesia Hospital - the memory of Gaza's strawberries helps him cope. Each day is now a matter of survival in the territory, where Israel is now concentrating its attacks on hospitals. "At the beginning of the war, we were still able to get some goods from the area around the hospital, like vegetables and instant noodles, but now it is impossible to get fresh produce like onions, tomatoes and cucumbers," he said, speaking to Al Jazeera through WhatsApp voice messages.

"At the Indonesia Hospital now, staff only get a meal once a day at lunchtime, which is provided by [the neighbouring] Al-Shifa Hospital. For breakfast and dinner, staff eat biscuits or dates," he said. Conditions at both the Indonesian and Al-Shifa hospitals, as well as other hospitals in Gaza, have seriously deteriorated since Al Jazeera last spoke to Haq. Dr Mohammad Abu Salmiya, the director of Al-Shifa Hospital, warned that hundreds of injured people as well as newborn babies needed to be urgently transported to an operational medical facility as his hospital was crumbling under the strain of a lack of fuel and medicine - as well as Israeli bombardments. "It's a tragedy. The dead bodies - we can't put them in freezers as they're not functioning so we decided to dig a pit in the vicinity of the hospital. It's a very inhumane scene. The situation is totally out of control. Hundreds of bodies are decomposing," Abu Salmiya told Al Jazeera. Atef al-Kahlout, the director of the Indonesia Hospital, said his facility is operating only at between 30-40 percent of capacity and he made an appeal for the world to help. "We call on the honourable people of the world, if any of them are left, to put pressure on the occupation forces to supply the Indonesia Hospital and the rest of the hospitals in the Gaza



Strip," he said. Before the war, food supplies for the Indonesia Hospital were usually sourced from nearby areas, Haq said. At the start of Israel's total blockade and attacks on Gaza, MER-C volunteers would go out to hunt for supplies in ambulances, provided by the hospital, which were considered safer than civilian vehicles. Now the fighting has come so close to the hospital that it is too dangerous to venture outside. Haq told Al Jazeera that he has been feeling particularly shaken lately, following an excursion about two weeks ago to source medical supplies for the hospital from civilian homes in the surrounding Al-Jalaa district, during which he thought he might die. He and other volunteers from Indonesia were only about 20 minutes from the hospital when bombs started to fall some 200 metres (218 yards) away. "I felt the most scared and resigned to my fate then, because we were in buildings owned by locals and, as we know, the Israeli military is destroying civilian homes," he said.

"There was no guarantee of our safety. It made me feel extraordinary fear but, by the grace of God, we were protected." As a result of the trip, Haq was able to find some medical supplies for the hospital and hand out food packets to medical staff. But since that near-miss with Israeli shells and missiles, he and the other volunteers have stayed within the hospital grounds where they sleep in the doctors' quarters. "The trauma we experienced was so great but, if we stay on the hospital grounds, I feel safe because the Israeli military has not directly attacked the hospital yet," he said.

"The area around the hospital is being bombarded constantly and when that happens, I feel a very human fear," he added. In the past week, areas around the Indonesian and other hospitals in the Gaza Strip have been the targets of intensifying Israeli bombardments. Israeli tanks have closed in, encircling the medical facilities where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought shelter as Israel's bombardment flattens entire neighbourhoods in Gaza. More than 11,000 people have now

been killed in the territory. Haq recounts the Israeli bombing being so close that it made the hospital building sway and part of the roof had already collapsed. "Usually, when there are bombings, the hospital building sways but on November 9, it felt as if the hospital was being lifted up off its foundations," he said. "It just made us terrified." Haq told Al Jazeera that when the bombing starts, he and the other staff take refuge in the basement of the hospital. Their daily work schedule fluctuates according to the significant needs of staff and patients. "Some days I work from 11am until 4pm the next day and just sleep a few hours where I can. The other day, I slept from 7am to 8am and then started again," he said.

In 2011, MER-C organised donations to build the Indonesia Hospital, which was officially inaugurated in 2016 by Indonesia's then-Vice President Jusuf Kalla. MER-C staff are technically medical humanitarian volunteers. Now, one of their primary roles is to document the sick and injured who come to the hospital and monitor the attacks around the facility. Haq and his colleagues also assist with medical treatment, particularly as the situation continues to deteriorate and doctors at the hospital are overrun with patients streaming in from surrounding areas. "On last week, when patients rushed to the hospital, we helped treat minor wounds because there were not enough doctors to handle all the patients," he said. While Indonesia has been working to evacuate some of its nationals in Gaza, Haq told Al Jazeera that he would not be one of them. "God willing, me and the two other MER-C volunteers have decided to stay in the Gaza Strip," he said. "We really appreciate the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs helping to evacuate Indonesian citizens from Gaza, but that is our decision," he said about choosing to remain in Gaza. "We hope we can keep helping citizens of Gaza to find fuel, food and medical supplies, and treat them at the Indonesia Hospital. That is our motivation to keep going." — Aljazeera

Volcanic eruption could destroy Icelandic fishing town, say experts

ICELAND: Authorities in Iceland have completed the evacuation of some 3,700 residents of a fishing town experts believe could be destroyed by the eruption of a nearby volcano. The town of Grindavik on the country's southwestern coast was evacuated after magma shifting under the Earth's crust caused hundreds of earthquakes in what was believed to be a precursor to an eruption. "We are really concerned about all the houses and the infrastructure in the area," Vidir Reynisson, head of Iceland's Civil Protection and Emergency Management told the AFP news agency. The town - around 40km (25 miles) southwest of Reykjavik - is located near the Svartsengi geothermal plant, the main supplier of electricity and water to 30,000 residents on the Reykjanes Peninsula, as well as a freshwater reservoir. Grindavik is also near the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa resort, a popular tourist destination which closed as a precaution earlier this week. "The magma is now at a very shallow depth, so we are expecting an eruption within a couple of hours at the shortest, but at least within a couple of days," Reynisson said. The most likely scenario would be a fissure opening in the ground near Grindavik. "We have a fissure that's about 15km [9.3 miles] long, and anywhere on that fissure we can see that an eruption could happen," Reynisson said. However, he did not rule out the possibility of an eruption on the ocean floor, which would likely cause a large ash cloud. "It's not the most likely scenario, but we can't rule it out because the end of the... fissure goes into the sea," he said.

The quakes and ground lift caused by the magma intrusion have already caused damage to roads and buildings in Grindavik and its surroundings. A large crack also tore up the greens on the Grindavik golf course, an image widely shared on social media networks. Iceland, which has 33 active volcanic systems, has declared a state of emergency and ordered the mandatory evacuation of Grindavik. Emergency shelters and help centres have opened in several nearby towns, but most Grindavik residents were staying with friends or relatives, media reported. Three eruptions have taken place on the Reykjanes peninsula in recent years near the Fagradalsfjall volcano: in March 2021, August 2022 and July 2023 - all far from any infrastructure or populated areas. The Earth's crust has been

fractured "so much over the past three years" by those eruptions, "helping magmatic fluids in finding their path faster", said Icelandic Met Office's (IMO) volcanic hazards coordinator Sara Barsotti. Prior to the March 2021 eruption, the Reykjanes peninsula had been dormant for eight centuries. Volcanologists believe the new cycle of increased activity could last for several decades or centuries. Situated in the North Atlantic, Iceland straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a crack in the ocean floor separating the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. A massive eruption in April 2010 at another Iceland volcano - Eyjafjallajokull, in the south of the island - forced the cancellation of some 100,000 flights, leaving more than 10 million travellers stranded. — Aljazeera

Lawyers seek release of Russian artist who staged anti-war price tag protest

MOSCOW (Reuters): Lawyers for a Russian artist and musician who replaced supermarket price tags with demands for an end to Moscow's war in Ukraine will on Monday urge a judge to free her after a state prosecutor sought an eight-year jail term.

Alexandra Skochilenko, 33, known to her friends as Sasha, has spent over a year-and-a-half in prison in St Petersburg as the Russian legal system deals with her case. Critics say it is part of a crackdown on anyone who speaks out against Moscow's "special military operation". Authorities have detained nearly 20,000 people for anti-war activity and opened over 800 criminal cases against anti-war dissidents, according to the OVD-Info rights group. The justice ministry has designated the rights group a "foreign agent" and its website is blocked in Russia.

Russia tightened its laws on dissent after sending its troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year, deepening its action against critics Moscow regards as unacceptable divisive as the country is locked in what President Vladimir Putin has portrayed as an existential struggle with the West. Skochilenko replaced price tags in a supermarket in her native St Petersburg on March 31 2022 with five small pieces of paper urging an end to the war. Less than two weeks later, she was detained after a shopper complained.

Skochilenko denies the formal charge of knowingly spreading false information

about the Russian army - an offence punishable in her case by up to ten years. Her legal team say that for Skochilenko, who was already suffering from poor health before her arrest, a lengthy sentence would be particularly damaging. Alexander Gladyshev, a state prosecutor, asked a judge to jail her for eight years and ban her from using the Internet for three years, a punishment whose severity shocked Skochilenko, according to supporters. The prosecution previously accused Skochilenko of committing what it described as a serious crime out of "political hatred" towards Russia. Her legal team will make their closing arguments to a court in St Petersburg on Monday, when they will say

Skochilenko has been punished enough for a protest that was non-violent and that she should be freed. She will then have a chance to make a final statement to the court before the verdict, which could be delivered later on Monday or in the following days. According to the Russian-language Mediazona outlet, she told the court on Nov. 3: "I just wanted to stop the war - that was my motivation. Not hatred, but compassion. I am sure that every person in this room does not want there to be a war. "Even you, your honour (the judge), even you, the state prosecutor, you also don't want people to die prematurely, for young soldiers to lie in the fields, for civilians to die."

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UN assessment on Afghanistan

THE UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has recently presented an assessment of the situation in Afghanistan to the UN Security Council, recommending a roadmap for the reintegration of the country into the global system. The assessment outlined a comprehensive strategy to resolve severe economic, social and political issues along with suggesting measures for building confidence between international and Afghan stakeholders, and among Afghans themselves. The UN Chief echoed the urgency for a general shift away from politically driven aid approaches towards increased and more sustainable assistance, especially in key sectors such as food security, livelihoods and healthcare. The assessment also called for establishing economic dialogue and reforms to resolve barriers to economic recovery, enable partial restoration of regular transit, trade, and other means of connectivity between Afghans and the world along with encouraging activities that help Afghans realise their political, economic, cultural and social rights through concerted efforts and collaboration.

The state and the people of Afghanistan plunged into dire political, economic and humanitarian crises after the US-led coalition withdrew from the country and the ruling Taliban leaders took control of the government in mid-2021. The seizure of Afghan national assets abroad, non-recognition of Taliban rule along with reduction and pause in foreign economic assistance that makes up more than half of the country's annual budget prompted a country-wide social and humanitarian crisis in the war-torn nation. Unfortunately, the Islamic Emirate has not yet been recognized by any country as it failed to fulfil its commitment at international levels, which caused significant political and economic challenges for the government as well as the Afghan public at large. Presently, a mass influx of Afghan returnees is underway and hundreds of thousands of Afghan nationals pouring into their country from neighbouring states including Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and other destinations while their settlement and rehabilitation is a great task for the interim government.

Historically, certain policies of the Afghan interim rulers have caused significant distance between the Islamic Emirate and the global community including Afghanistan's neighbours. Hence, the non-inclusiveness of interim setup, a bar on girls' education, and women's liberties and persistent non-dissociation from terrorism pose major hurdles in the path of the global recognition of Islamic Emirate, normalization of diplomatic, trade and economic relations, together with regional connectivity and economic integration with its neighbours. Two years after taking control of the country, the Islamic Emirate failed to overcome those challenges which not only undermined its relations with neighbours and the global community but worsened over time.

Interestingly, the recent assessment presented by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also identified these snags as impediments to the normalization of relations and revival of global cooperation with the Afghan authorities. The UN Secretary-General suggested effective coordination and cooperation between the de facto Afghan rulers and the international stakeholders on a bilateral and multilateral basis to curb the threat of terrorism, production and trafficking of drugs animating out of that country. The document also emphasized adherence to principles of non-discrimination, ensuring respect for women's rights and fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghans that would pave the way for greater cooperation between the global community and Afghanistan. So far, there is a huge contradiction between the priorities of the global community and the manifesto of the Afghan interim rulers, that gap has widened over the past years and is unlikely to be filled in the future. Hence, the Afghan people are the only losers in this tussle until any side pauses its resoluteness and respects the comforts/well-being of the poor masses.

Fresh election, old politics

TRADITIONAL election campaigns and political activities have commenced, after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the schedule for the upcoming nationwide polls in the country. Political rallies, corner meetings, and networking of the candidates for National and provincial assemblies are gradually gaining momentum while major political parties are in the process of building new alliances and making seat adjustments to replenish their vote bank or augment their candidates. Amid such a scenario, the inter-party tussles and the rates and demands of the electables are at their peak. The renewed hostility between civic groups, exchange of interesting allegations/ accusations and verbosity of the leaders have made an awesome environment in the country if one keeps these differences in the political arena instead of manifesting them into personal rivalry. The newest political dogfight and battle of words between the PML-N and the PPP to attract voters is unique as both political groups have recently accomplished a successful parliamentary coalition and jointly ruled the country over the past one and a half years.

Several new parties including the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Pakistan National Party (PNP) and others took part in the nationwide contest for the first time with imaginative manifestos, tall claims and trivial preparation. The disappearance of the PTI from the political scene has revived the decades-old traditional opposition between the PPP and the PML-N and both groups are actively lobbying in each other's domain of influence. The PML-N has announced its election alliances with JUI-F and MQM-P, the party is eyeing to ally with Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Awami National Party (ANP) in Balochistan and the KP respectively. The PPP is likely to conceive its partnership with PML-Q, Quami Watan Party (QWP)-Sherpao and other regional/ ethnic groups. The participation of the PTI in the upcoming election is still unsure, it is mulling over the current scenario and is likely to walk away from the polls as the party patron-in-chief is currently behind bars.

Interestingly, all is going well except that there is wide-ranging consensus among the intelligentsia and scholarly circles that this election is seemingly a reverse/undoing of the grand finale of 2018 as the PML-N has taken the role of the PTI and vice versa. If so, nothing else than another blunder with the system as well as the nation.

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Biden is in trouble

Julian Zelizer

ALTHOUGH Election Day on Tuesday was good for Democrats, they should not take much comfort in those positive results heading into 2024. Democrats are feeling hopeful after big wins in Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. Although President Joe Biden might not be as popular as they'd like, and doubts about Vice President Kamala Harris are likely to persist, the election on Tuesday seemed to suggest that an issues-based campaign might be enough to turn swing states blue in 2024.

The theory is that, by focusing on reproductive rights, as well as other issues that have strong national support, such as fighting climate change, the Biden campaign will be able to overcome the challenge posed by the president's low approval rating. Some have pointed to President George W. Bush's reelection victory in 2004 over Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry as one notable precedent, a case of Republicans successfully focusing on ballot initiatives to boost turnout and win over voters. But the election results on Tuesday may not provide as clear a path forward as some Democrats think. While much was made about the Republican push for ballot initiatives banning same sex marriage in 2004, an issue the GOP hoped would increase turnout by its base, some scholars and journalists have found little evidence that it actually gained votes for Bush.

Moreover, Bush had much more wind at his back, given the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and the continued perception in large parts of the nation that his counterterrorism programs were effective. While the fallout from the disastrous war in Iraq was already showing up, it did not yet dominate public perceptions of his performance, and some of the biggest disasters of his presidency, including his response to Hurricane Katrina, would not take place until after his reelection. In November 2003, one year before the election, Bush's approval ratings were solid, at over 50%. And even though it was a sharp fall from the 70% he enjoyed in April of that year, Bush managed to stabilize his standing. By

the time November 2004 rolled around, he maintained a 53% approval rating - well above Biden's 37% as of early October. Like it or not, personality, charisma and perceptions of character still matter in presidential elections. Bush and his supporters waged a brutal campaign against Kerry, portraying him as a coastal elite, blue state politician who flip-flopped depending on whichever stance seemed most popular. One famous ad showed Kerry wind surfing to the left and right, "whichever way the wind

decision making while rendering Kerry as someone who could not be counted on to make tough calls in the toughest of times.

The current conservative media ecosystem - from Fox News to Truth Social - makes the kind of disinformation that was novel during the 2004 campaign seem like small potatoes, and it will be all the more challenging to convey accurate information in the 2024 contest. There are also serious questions being raised about whether abortion rights are as motivating for voters as some

may just be one of many issues, with differing political impacts, he argued.

Even if Biden can get a bump from voters who are passionate about defending abortion rights, polling also shows that core constituencies, such as Black and Latino voters, are having serious doubts about him. A number of Muslim and Arab voters in key states like Michigan have also voiced their dismay over Biden's strong backing of Israel in its war with Hamas, though the lasting effect isn't yet clear. Finally, a new poll this week should sound the alarm for Democrats.

The campaign managed to turn Bush, who joined the Texas Air National Guard - whose main mission was to defend the Gulf Coast - rather than the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, into a paragon of patriotic, firm decision making while rendering Kerry as someone who could not be counted on to make tough calls in the toughest of times. The current conservative media ecosystem - from Fox News to Truth Social - makes the kind of disinformation that was novel during the 2004 campaign seem like small potatoes, and it will be all the more challenging to convey accurate information in the 2024 contest. There are also serious questions being raised about whether abortion rights are as motivating for voters as some Democrats think.

blows." Another ad by an independent group called the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth challenged Kerry's record of service on a Swift boat during the Vietnam War and raised questions about the medals that he was awarded for his military service, giving rise to the phrase "swiftboating" as a way to describe unfair or dishonest political attacks. The campaign managed to turn Bush, who joined the Texas Air National Guard - whose main mission was to defend the Gulf Coast - rather than the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, into a paragon of patriotic, firm

Democrats think. The New York Times columnist David Leonhardt points to a number of recent elections where Democrats lost despite focusing on this issue. Tim Ryan, the Democratic Senate candidate for Ohio in 2022, for example, lost to J.D. Vance, even though he centered his campaign on abortion. Leonhardt pointed out that Americans broadly support widespread access to abortion - and the issue has been largely successful for Democrats when it is the sole focus of a ballot initiative. But when it comes to a national election featuring two candidates, abortion

Inhumanity in Gaza must awaken our collective humanity

Baria Alamuddin

AMID all the unimaginable horrors facing Palestinians in Gaza, special mention should be made of the more than 50,000 women who are pregnant. Many are so emaciated after weeks of inadequate food that they are unable to produce milk for their babies. The UN children's agency UNICEF estimated that 180 women a day were giving birth without adequate care, including undergoing Cesareans without painkillers, and being discharged, still bleeding, within hours of delivery. Dozens of babies face death in neonatal intensive care units where life-saving incubator machines lack electricity.

At a time when they are most desperately needed, about half of Gaza's 35 hospitals are destroyed or non-operational, while the remainder lack equipment and electricity. We enter the lowest circles of hell when even hospitals are being bombed, and doctors and patients alike are caught in the crossfire, with Israel accused of turning the besieged Al-Shifa hospital into an open war zone. Imagine the horror of being maimed in the destruction of your own home, only to incur further injuries when the ambulance conveying you to hospital is hit by an airstrike. The inability of hospitals to bury hundreds of dead bodies contributes to horrific conditions and the wildfire spread of infections.

Even if Hamas were to set up a headquarters in the middle of a hospital, attacking that institution would still unambiguously be a war crime. Israel acts as if international law doesn't apply, because an indulgent and unheeding Western world for years has allowed this to be the case. Hamas in no way represents the Palestinian nation and the group bears responsibility for triggering this situation, but world leaders are also culpable for the bloody consequences of affording Israel decades of absolute impunity.

In a spectacular own goal, British interior minister Suella Braverman denounced the London Amistice Day pro-Palestine demonstration as a "hate march" and unsuccessfully piled pressure on the police to have it banned. Largely thanks to Braverman's free publicity, hundreds of thousands peacefully participated in one of the largest marches in British history. Indeed, will we ever live to see a Memorial Day to the 4,500 children and thousands of other innocent civilians who have already been killed in Gaza, alongside those senselessly murdered in Israel? To avoid history repeating itself, we should emphasize and commemorate the sacredness of all human life.

Huge marches also in Spain, France, Germany, America and elsewhere demonstrate how rapidly Israel is losing sympathy among its closest allies. I've been struck by the fluidity of Western public opinion. Immediately after Oct. 7, anyone expressing pro-Palestinian sentiments was denounced as a terrorism-sympathiser. But now, with the obvious exclusion of emotionally and morally dead self-serving politicians, can anybody with a few granules of humanity not be moved by Gaza's heart-wrenching horrors? Many Western media outlets have lurched from outbursts of

slavish support for Israel to more nuanced language for fear of losing their audiences, although certain outlets persist with editorial lines that wholly dehumanize Palestinians. These events have unleashed the hateful seeds of antisemitism and Islamophobia around the world, with far-right elements speculating about genocidal measures against Jewish and Muslim communities. Even in Israel, thousands of demonstrators, including the families of hostages, demanded a halt to the violence and negotiations to free about 240 hostages before too many of them are killed by Israel's own airstrikes.

Israeli observers worry that, despite the obvious objective of mass collective vengeance against Palestinian civilians in Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu's war goals appear grossly unrealistic and self-defeating - other than seeking to temporarily save his own political skin. Although Israeli troops have timidly encircled the outskirts of Gaza City, where over a third of buildings have been damaged by bombing, they still haven't made significant incursions through the city's rubble-strewn streets. So if Israel is serious about following through on "eliminating" Hamas, the war has barely started yet. Indeed, the conflict could get infinitely worse if provocations on the Lebanon border and in the West Bank trigger full-scale conflagrations. For all Hassan Nasrallah's rhetoric about "victory" in his latest speech, the situation in both Gaza and Israel isn't what victory looks like. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi weighed in with similarly escalatory language about how "there is no other way but to resist Israel." Yet other than stoking the pot and exacerbating the regional situation, it isn't clear how the actions of Iran and its proxies help the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, in unusually strong language, the Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh denounced the "war crimes and barbaric, brutal and inhumane massacres committed by the colonial occupation government," while calling for an end to the Gaza siege. Among the summit's tangible proposals were the establishment of media monitoring units to document and publicize violations against Palestinians, along with a number of international initiatives for holding Israel legally accountable. As International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan argued, we cannot allow ourselves to be desensitized to this level of anguish and this "pandemic of inhumanity." We must remember that those pulled from the rubble are the same as us and equally deserving of justice.

Several decades as a working journalist have caused me to be deeply cynical of politicians even when they are saying the right things. It is not acceptable for us as global citizens to passively accept a world where thousands are meaninglessly slaughtered before our eyes. Whether the victims are Israeli or Palestinian, this relentless diet of inhumanity must awaken our innate humanitarian empathy in seeking to end this brutality and establish a path toward lasting and just peace - an essential component of which is ending the illegal occupation of Palestinian land once and for all.

Arab News

A time for peace and a two-state solution

Ronald s. Lauder

solution and freeing the hostages.

Though the topics and the timing were difficult and painful, we had open and honest exchanges on the basis of mutual respect and with the understanding that, in the end, we all want the same thing - a better future where Israelis and Palestinians live in peace side by side. A future where a "Marshall Plan" for the Palestinians, as I proposed in a previous article in Arab News, would offer an alternative to the brainwashing of Iran and terrorist organizations. It would be an important step toward long-term security and stability for all in the Middle East. A future where we can actually remember that we are the children of Abraham and should be able to live together as such.

I understand that the idea of talking about peace in the current atmosphere, as Hamas was able to create after the attacks on Oct. 7, could seem ludicrous.

However, I believe history will back me up. Fifty years ago, after the devastation of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, peace between Egypt and Israel seemed equally unattainable. But it was precisely that war that led late President Anwar Sadat to travel to Jerusalem to shake the hand of his Israeli counterpart. When President Sadat offered a real peace treaty, right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin gave the Sinai back to Egypt without hesitation. That peace has lasted now for almost half a century.

As a second example, in September 1993, I was among the invitees on the White House lawn when late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and late Chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands and manifested that they wanted to see a future of their people living in peace. Never will I forget the atmosphere of happiness and hope. People who had nothing to

do with one another stood up together, applauded and we became friends that day. Out of all the friendships created that day, I cherished mine with the late Dr. Saeb Erekat for many years. I would call him one of the voices of wisdom among the Palestinian leadership. Unfortunately, he passed away in November 2020, a huge loss for all those in the world who wanted to see a future with peace in the region and considered themselves to be bridge-builders.

We visited each other's homes and I will never forget how his wife offered to teach me how to make maqluba. It became one of my favorite dishes after they graciously introduced me to it. Saeb and I did not always agree on every topic, but we agreed on one thing: that only a two-state solution would guarantee Israelis and Palestinians a life in dignity, safety and with a better perspective on the economic situation, which would lead to a sustainable

future. We also agreed that one of the biggest threats came from religious extremists on all sides, who would use violence against the voices of bridge-builders.

And let us be clear, in my opinion, a two-state solution would mean a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel. We are missing the voices like Saeb's today in this current situation. His wisdom, his ability to also raise his voice against the extremists on all sides and fight for a better future; I wish it would be the voices of reason - and I know they do exist on both sides - that would get the airtime in today's media. Sadly, for now, Hamas, with its attacks and per se declaration of war on Oct. 7, seems to have succeeded in polarizing the world. Not only that, but we also live in times where a minority of people allow extremists to intimidate, silence and cancel the majority.

This is not in the interest of anyone who stands for

peace nor for anyone who is a bridge-builder. This is not the time to be indifferent. I call upon anyone - leaders, politicians, business owners, journalists, students - who want to have a future in peace, to not give into the voices of extremism. In difficult times, like the ones we live in today, it is easy to fall into the trap of hatred, but true leadership is when we still hold on to the idea of peace. We must all understand that those who consider themselves bridge-builders will not give into the voices of extremists, who are trying to divide or cancel us. True leaders - no matter if old or young - stand strong in such difficult times and do not fall into the trap of hatred or labeling others. It is the time where bridge-builders on all sides come together and urgently discuss the long-term solutions and what we all have in common, not what divides us. I have always been a man of peace and I know there are many more out there who think the same way. We cannot give up on a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Stalemate in Ukraine is the hesitant West’s fault

Boris Bondarev

THE commander of Ukraine's Armed Forces, General Valery Zaluzhny, admitted in a recent interview with The Economist that expectations of a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive were, to put it mildly, overly optimistic. The Ukrainians have run into a powerful line of Russian defense, and the war has finally turned into one of attrition. Ukraine urgently needs new solutions, a new strategy and a ready supply of high-tech weaponry to advance its position.

This sad situation has not come as a surprise to anyone following the course of the war. The Ukrainian army learned a lot and achieved impressive victories in 2022. Since then, they have been unable to repeat those successes. To a large extent, the problem lies in the chronic under-equipping of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, which stems from the indecisiveness, and often cowardice, of Kyiv's Western partners to supply the desperately needed arms and equipment.

As has been said many times - and what Western leaders themselves recognize - President Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine is not a local conflict rooted in territorial disputes between two neighboring states. It is an attack on the very foundations of the existing world order, and an aggressive attempt to rewrite the rules that underpin it.

Putin's ideal world is one of "war of all against all," where might makes right and powerful nations form spheres of influence, encircling themselves within an entourage of satellite states. This forms the basis of multipolarity, a concept that Russian diplomacy has peddled for decades. In this effort, Moscow finds support among allies like China, Iran and North Korea as well as many countries in the Global

South who are particularly in favor of the idea of solving political problems by force. That is, unless that force is directed at them.

History abounds with examples of regional conflicts exploding into existential cataclysms. World War I was started by the Austro-Hungarian Empire's attack on Serbia, which to many at the time seemed a fairly local affair. Germany's invasion of Poland kicked off World War II. Before that, Hitler got away with rejecting the Treaty of Versailles, annexing Austria, remilitarizing the Rhineland and more. The leaders of Britain and France even abandoned Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany in 1938. All of this was in the name of "a long peace for generations to come." That peace lasted for about a year.

Western countries have taken an ambivalent position since the start of the war in Ukraine. True, they have imposed round after round of sanctions on Russia and declared they would support Kyiv for as long as it takes. But on the other hand, this support had clear red lines. Ukraine is not a member of NATO, so the bloc had no obligation to come to its aid. Indeed, Kyiv's allies have ruled out launching direct military operations. This fear of escalation, which NATO strategists for some reason decided to make explicit to Moscow, still dictates their policy.

And then began the fanfare around all kinds of arms and equipment being sent to Kyiv. HIMARS systems were described as a sort of miracle weapon, and then so were German-made Leopard tanks. More recently, hopes have been pinned on ATACMS missiles and, finally, on F-16 airplanes. Apparently, the plan is that these weapons systems alone will drive Russian troops out of Ukraine.

But no single weapon can win a war. At least not when they are supplied in such small numbers and so slowly. What does win wars is the ability to use all available forces and means at once in the best possible way. Any military textbook will tell you this.

The failure of Ukraine's counteroffensive was the obvious outcome of NATO's half-hearted policy of supporting Kyiv, which is based on the two paradoxical assumptions that the Russian army is weak on the battlefield, but the West still has reasons to fear escalation. It is this fear that paralyzes any effective assistance to Ukraine.

Unsurprisingly, the Ukraine debacle is leading more people to call for both sides to negotiate a peace agreement. The fact that Putin has repeatedly shown he will neither negotiate nor respect international agreements does not give these people pause for thought.

Some experts even suggest giving Ukraine some kind of security guarantee - without admission to NATO - in exchange for territorial concessions to Russia in the hope of ending the war. What kind of guarantees can these be? Without recalling the notorious Budapest Memorandum, we must honestly state that the only way to stop Putin's aggression against the remnants of Ukraine has to be an unequivocal commitment from NATO countries to enter the war against the aggressor. Only the prospect of encountering US troops on the battlefield, which US President Joe Biden has ruled out, could have a sobering effect on Putin, whose worldview is inspired by the weakness of the West. And even then, it is no longer a sure thing. However, it is not clear why such guarantees

cannot be given right now. But the only thing that Western strategists are not afraid of is demonstrating their fear of any possible slightest serious escalation of the war.

Any outcome of the war without a return to the status quo, at least as of Feb. 23, 2022, would mean defeat for Ukraine. For Russia, retaining the captured territories would be a tangible victory. Thus, the signing of any peace agreement will consolidate Putin's victory over not only Ukraine, but over the entire West, which loudly promised to help Kyiv resist aggression in every possible way. Thus, Putin will turn into a man who inflicted a shameful defeat on the United States and all of NATO. This will not go unnoticed in a world where many openly hope for such an outcome.

In 2022, history offered the West an opportunity to win World War III on foreign territory, thus preventing the war from spreading around the world. The West's leaders apparently decided to refrain from this. The result will be the end of the era of the liberal world order built on the founding of the United Nations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together with the departure of this order, the quiet, safe life enjoyed by the US and Europe will be gone. They only have themselves to blame - for their fear and unwillingness to stand up for that very peaceful life. The West doesn't want to fight - so the war will come to them. As Winston Churchill said, appeasing an aggressor means being "defeated without starting a war." Again, as he said, appeasement has thrown the equilibrium of Europe into disarray, leaving Western democracies "wanting" in the face of aggression. Once again, history is teaching us that nobody learns from it.

The Moscow Times

Genocide in Gaza: A call to urgent global action

A week into Israel's war on Gaza, 800 eminent scholars and practitioners of law sounded the alarm about an imminent genocide in the territory. What made this warning both powerful and chilling was that so many legal experts came to this sombre conclusion together. It is not a claim that can be made easily.

Since that letter was released, the situation in Gaza has only gotten worse. The death toll has passed 11,000, while some 2,650 individuals, including approximately 1,400 children, are reported missing, potentially trapped or deceased beneath the rubble. Tens of thousands of wounded are overwhelming struggling medical facilities. The humanitarian situation has reached horrific levels, compounded by the lack of food, water, fuel and electricity. To understand what is transpiring in Gaza, we must turn to the key legal frameworks that define genocide: Article 6 of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court and Article 2 of the Genocide Convention.

According to these documents, genocide involves acts committed with the specific intent to destroy, either in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These acts encompass killing members of the group, causing them serious harm, and imposing conditions of life aimed at physical destruction of the group in whole or in part, among other underlying acts. Notably, the people targeted can be a geographically limited part of the group. Gaza's devastating reality mirrors these components of genocide. Despite claiming to target only Hamas, Israel is engaged in an all-out assault on the whole population of Gaza. In just the first week of its relentless assault, it dropped more than 6,000 bombs on the Strip - nearly as many as the United States used in Afghanistan in a full year.

Using high-impact munitions in one of the most densely populated places in the world inevitably leads to a high death toll among civilians, as we have witnessed already in Gaza. In a month, the Israeli bombardment has killed more than 4,400 children and 2,900 women, with many of the men in these horrific statistics also non-combatants. The Israeli army has also dropped any pretence to "precision strikes", as its spokesperson Daniel Hagari said its emphasis is "on damage and not accuracy".

It has also mass-targeted civilian buildings, including hospitals and schools sheltering the displaced. It has bombed residential buildings, wiping out whole families from the population registrar; more than 45 percent of homes were destroyed or damaged, many of them in the supposed "safe areas" of the south where the Israeli army had instructed Palestinians to evacuate to. This mass killing of civilians is accompanied by the imposition of life conditions aimed clearly at the physical destruction of the Palestinian people. Israel has put Gaza under complete siege, with "no electricity, no food, no water, no gas", as declared by Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Israel's bombing of hospitals, the targeting of their solar panels and the blocking of fuel deliveries indicate an intent to prevent Palestinians from accessing life-saving healthcare. More than one-third of hospitals and two-thirds of primary healthcare in Gaza have already shut down. The Israeli refusal to allow adequate amounts of much-needed humanitarian aid - including food and water - indicates it is willing to allow the Palestinian population to succumb to starvation and disease.

Israeli government and military officials have also verbalised their genocidal intent towards the Palestinian people. On October 9, when announcing the full blockade, Gallant described the 2.3 million people in Gaza as "human animals". On October 29, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used Judaic scripture to justify the

longest occupation in modern history, killing of Palestinians. "You must remember what Amalek did to you, says our Holy Bible," he said, quoting a verse that goes on to say: "Now go and smite Amalek ... kill both man and woman, infant." On November 5, Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu said one of Israel's options in Gaza is to drop a nuclear bomb. He also explained that no humanitarian aid should be provided to Palestinian civilians as "there is no such thing as uninvolved civilians in Gaza". While his statement faced criticism from Israeli officials, the concerns raised were primarily centred around the potential impact on "Israel's image" rather than acknowledging the grave implications of such remarks as a potential tool of genocide.

There has been a litany of other official statements employing dehumanising language towards Palestinians, along with incitement by common Israelis for the "annihilation of Gaza". These reveal the intent to commit war

is trying to depict itself as a victim; its tormentor - the people it has systematically oppressed and dispossessed for decades.

It is imperative to grasp these distinct aspects of the unfolding genocide in Gaza, as we confront and respond to it. We must not forget that what is happening now is part of a long history of Israeli actions against the Palestinians, extending beyond the Gaza Strip, with genocidal intent and practices targeting other Palestinian communities. We must not forget it as Israel and its allies try to decontextualise what is going on in Gaza and portray it as a war "provoked" by Hamas's October 7 attack.

Talk about self-defence for Israel is dominating Western rhetoric, with minimal consideration for human lives and adherence to the rules of armed conflict, let alone the 56-year military occupation and 16-year siege of Gaza. This constitutes a fundamental flaw in the appraisal of these events, and, conse-

Additionally, at the heart of this tragedy lies a discourse of dehumanisation, serving both as a strategy and an outcome. The long-standing anti-Palestinian discourse, ongoing since the inception of Zionism, has systematically denied the existence and the rights of Palestinians. The narrative of Israel as "a land without a people, for a people without a land" has effectively erased an entire indigenous population, along with its history, heritage, and grievances. In parallel, Palestinians have been systematically demonised through narratives that portray them as terrorists, anti-Semites, and even Nazis. Evoking absurd claims of the "Nazification of Palestinians", Israel, a powerful settler colonial state that has presided over the longest occupation in modern history, is trying to depict itself as a victim; its tormentor - the people it has systematically oppressed and dispossessed for decades.

crimes, crimes against humanity, and, indeed, genocide. In the words of genocide expert and survivor of the Bosnian genocide, Arnessa Buljusic-Kastura, "That sort of rhetoric is not uncommon when it comes to cases of genocide. It is obviously one of the most important stages when you really consider it, and to hear the openly dehumanising language spoken with so much fervour in the media from government leaders, and from regular people too, is horrifying and it all leads us to where we are at right now, which is the fact that what is happening in Gaza is a genocide."

While what is happening in Gaza shares common features with other previous situations of genocide, there are also particular elements unique to it. Among these distinct features are the enduring occupation of Palestinian lands, the relentless siege on Gaza, and the staggering proportion of the Palestinian nation already displaced by previous acts of ethnic cleansing. Additionally, at the heart of this tragedy lies a discourse of dehumanisation, serving both as a strategy and an outcome. The longstanding anti-Palestinian discourse, ongoing since the inception of Zionism, has systematically denied the existence and the rights of Palestinians. The narrative of Israel as "a land without a people, for a people without a land" has effectively erased an entire indigenous population, along with its history, heritage, and grievances.

In parallel, Palestinians have been systematically demonised through narratives that portray them as terrorists, anti-Semites, and even Nazis. Evoking absurd claims of the "Nazification of Palestinians", Israel, a powerful settler colonial state that has presided over the

quently, the ability to address their root causes, as subtly alluded to by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his October 24 address to the Security Council. The lessons of the Holocaust were meant to serve as safeguards against state violence and genocide, particularly for vulnerable groups. What we are witnessing today, however, is an unprecedented global dehumanisation campaign against the Palestinians, pushing their narratives, experiences, and histories to the margins.

Historically, the initiation of such campaigns has often been a precursor to genocide. Therefore, it is imperative to restore the Palestinian people's humanity and recognise their shared history and rights, as a people, as we push for an immediate cessation of the unfolding genocide. We are witnessing a rapidly growing anti-Palestinian sentiment not only in Israel but also in many European countries, clearly visible in how the authorities are dealing with demonstrations and support for the Palestinian people. It is incumbent upon the international community to address this hatred with the same vigour as it has addressed anti-Semitism.

While the 1949 Geneva Conventions require all state parties "to respect and ensure respect" of these conventions in all circumstances, the Genocide Convention places a legal obligation on every member state to prevent and punish even the attempt to commit this heinous crime, without waiting for it to fully manifest. "Never again" was meant to be a warning for future generations, yet we have seen genocides occur since the Holocaust, met with global silence. It is time to make "never again" a living principle, an urgent call to action. In Gaza, "never again" is now.

Whether sacked or not, Suella Braverman could stir up a new Tory civil war

Katy Balls

FROM the moment Suella Braverman joined Rishi Sunak's cabinet, she has been a cause of controversy. Sunak's decision to appoint her as home secretary, just days after Liz Truss sacked her from the great office of state over an email breach, was read by the party as a sign that he needed her in order to get to No 10. Without Braverman's endorsement during the second leadership contest of 2022, Sunak would have struggled to get the right of the party on board; it would, instead, have turned to Boris Johnson and aided his attempt at a comeback. Had Johnson had more support among MPs he could have chosen to stay in the race; the decision then would have gone to the party membership, and British politics could look very different to the way it does now.

This history means that since that endorsement, every scandal or row involving the home secretary is seen through the prism of Sunak's strength or weakness. Did Braverman avoid investigation by the No 10 ethics adviser over a speeding ticket row because Sunak couldn't risk it? Did her speech at a Washington DC thinktank on the "dogma of multiculturalism" come as a surprise to Downing Street? Is the home secretary freelancing on policy because she thinks she is unsackable? Not all of this is the case - but the fact such questions are so frequently asked points to the problem.

The events of the past week mean that Sunak is now in a situation where he cannot avoid these questions. After riling colleagues by suggesting that rough sleeping was for some a "lifestyle choice", Braverman provoked No 10's ire with an op-ed for the Times on police bias. As a Downing Street

spokesperson made crystal clear, the piece was not signed off in full by No 10 - and some suggested edits were ignored. It caused particular annoyance in No 10 because it came soon after a productive meeting between Sunak and the Metropolitan police chief, Mark Rowley - thereby distracting from it and creating more tension.

Violence on Saturday from far-right protesters who were looking to confront the pro-Palestinian march has led the London mayor, Sadiq Khan, to blame Braverman - accusing her of stirring them up. While most Tory MPs don't go that far, there is frustration that Braverman's comments have left them vulnerable to such claims. Senior Tories argue that the home secretary should be focused on calming tensions rather than stoking division.

Having publicly outed Braverman as going against his orders, Sunak now finds himself in a no-win situation. If he keeps the home secretary in place, he will be accused of being weak - in office, but not in power. "They will have bottled it - again," says a government aide. He will face anger from MPs across the party - including some of his own ministers, who feel Braverman has become a distraction. "The anti-Braverman sentiment is wider than ever before," says a senior Tory. It will encourage other ministers to go rogue, given that they will read it as a sign that they don't need to be afraid of No 10. Meanwhile, the opposition parties will focus their attacks on the idea that Braverman is the one running the show. Already the defence secretary, Grant Shapps, has had to use the media round to defend Braverman from claims made by Labour politicians that her

rhetoric on the marches fuelled the far-right protests.

But if Sunak does what many of his ministers expect and pushes Braverman out in a reshuffle as soon as next week, he risks a revolt on the right - and Braverman on the backbenches. Already Braverman's defenders, such as Miriam Cates, are out on the airwaves sticking up for her. While some Sunak supporters believe Braverman's influence is exaggerated, it could be an incendiary time to risk a fight with the right. Next week, the supreme court will rule on the legality of the government's Rwanda scheme. It was already going to be a crunch moment for the Conservatives, given a lot of MPs see progress on stopping the boats as the only plausible way to transform their electoral fortunes. Now the question MPs are asking is who will be the home secretary after the judgment lands. "It's going to be a mental few days," predicts a government aide.

If the scheme does not receive the green light, calls from the right of the party will grow once again for Sunak to commit to taking the UK out of the European convention on human rights. While he is not fully opposed to the idea, the prime minister is yet to be convinced it is necessary. If Braverman were free to speak on the backbenches, she could lead the calls for Sunak to do this. There are plenty of MPs on the right who think a stop-the-boats election is their best bet. "It would be like Brexit part 2," says one. It means that at a time when Tory morale is low, Braverman's future risks stirring up a new round of civil war within the party. "There is a battle for the soul of the Conservative party," says a member of the 2019

intake. "Between the conservatives and the liberals essentially, and she very much represents the conservative wing." Potential successors to Braverman aren't inspiring much hope. "If it is Grant [Shapps] or Oliver [Dowden] we may as well give up now," says a member of government over the potential replacements.

Some argue that if Braverman is pushed out, it could be a master-stroke from her - as she has been actively trying to get sacked. This way - the argument goes - she can position herself for the post-defeat leadership contest as a change candidate untainted by government decisions ("if we go below 200 seats, the candidates who had nothing to do with the government will suddenly look very appealing," says a Conservative old-timer). While Braverman is willing to push the limits, her allies say this is wide of the mark, and that her focus lies in trying to shape government policy and strategy. She often says what she thinks without necessarily realising the full consequences. After all, if Braverman really wanted to get sacked, there are easier ways to do so.

Should she lose her job, she is unlikely to spend too much time licking her wounds. As a minister there from day one of the Sunak premiership, she knows where the bodies are buried and has plenty of views on the direction of the party. Given that Braverman will pose a risk to Sunak in or out, he is back to a decision that his supporters have been asking themselves ever since she entered the Home Office. In the words of Lyndon B Johnson: is it better to have your enemies inside the tent pissing out or outside the tent pissing in? We are about to find out.

The Guardian

New development era ahead for both BRI and BRICS

Martin Lampter

THE launch of the Belt and Road Initiative a decade ago marked another milestone in China's development journey. The question is: What is the Belt and Road Initiative's role in international relations, particularly China's relations with other countries and organizations now and in the future?

The BRI has come a long way since its launch. That more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations have signed more than 230 cooperation agreements with China under the initiative means countries, which combined account for three-quarters of the world's population, are involved in the initiative. Many infrastructure projects and forms of cooperation have already become a reality in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America in the first decade of the initiative's existence.

The initiative is expected to help China to realize the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country and achieve the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation by the middle of the century, with 2049 being the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. There are already indicators of why this might be the case. One is the outcome of the domestic development policy that led to the eradication of

absolute poverty at the end of 2020. The BRI is moving in the same direction as the Global Development Initiative to eradicate absolute poverty in China, and its aim is to raise the living standards of people around the world.

The BRI is entering a new phase, its second decade of existence. In order to comprehend the initiative's role in this new period, it is important to understand how it will have to cope with a changed international situation. The current situation is different from that when the initiative was launched in 2013. There are at least three reasons for the change. First, the effects of the global financial crisis and the subsequent structural changes only began to be felt in the United States and other Western countries after 2016 with the rise of former US president Donald Trump, who imposed ill-advised trade sanctions on China and other countries, with the incumbent Joe Biden administration continuing that strategy.

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic was a stress test and a new experience for countries engaged in global cooperation and competition. And third, the current armed conflicts have shown the urgency of diplomacy and judicious trade negotiations with international

partners around the world.

In this new phase of heightened tensions, it is important how the most vulnerable countries, that is, developing ones, stand up. Developing countries have the highest number of poor people and people who are at risk of falling into poverty. That is why development policies play a crucial role in economic growth and social progress, whether it is a development policy such as the BRI or an international cooperation-cum-development policy promoted by BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - which will be joined by Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on Jan 1). In this situation, developing countries are reinforcing each other. The inclusion of six more countries - from the Middle East, Africa and Latin America - in BRICS will boost the group's cooperation with other countries and pave the way for the BRICS member states to use their own currencies for intra-BRICS Plus trade, thus reducing the dominance of the US dollar and other Western currencies, and contributing to the development of the Global South.

The need to strengthen themselves prompted the old BRICS

member states to include more countries to extend the grouping's influence across the world. But we should keep in mind that this expansion will not continue to the extent of including all the developing countries in BRICS Plus. The developing world is currently represented the broadest in the G77. The more focused BRICS Plus organization represents an important core of the most influential developing countries on their respective continents. The BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, from Aug 22 to 24 and the G77 Summit in Cuba on Sept 15-16 demonstrated these facts. It is in this context that China is promoting the BRI, whose goal is to improve infrastructure connectivity. China sees itself as the largest developing country in solidarity with other developing countries and with respect for the plurality of different civilizations and political-economic systems as a necessary condition for peaceful coexistence and development cooperation in order to build a community with a shared future for mankind. The BRI's aim is to be beneficial for both developing and developed countries, as it is proving to be in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, with its contributions to empowering the multilateral world.

The China Daily



Bulls rule PSX as index gains 1,132 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continue with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,132.21 points, a positive change of 2.04 percent, closing at 56,523.58 points against 55,391.37 points the previous trading day.

A total of 660,649,520 shares valuing Rs22.409 billion were traded during the day as compared to 640,836,781 shares valuing Rs21.146 billion the previous day.

As many as 385 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 220 of them recorded gains and 147 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 18 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 100,788,191

shares at Rs.1.37 per share, Energyco PK with 60,730,540 shares at Rs.4.70 per share and Hum Network with 32,478,500 shares at Rs.7.25 per share.

Raffhan Maize XD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.594.75 per share price, closing at Rs.8,524.75, whereas the runner-up was Nestle PakistanXD with a Rs.547.50 rise in its per share price to Rs7,847.50.

Unilever Foods XD witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.1,400.00 per share closing at Rs22,000.00, followed by Sapphire Fiber with a Rs.30.00 decline to close at Rs.1,200.00.

Rupee sheds 51 paise against Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 51-paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs

287.54 against the previous day's closing at Rs 287.03.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287 and Rs 289.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.15 to close at Rs 307.41 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.26, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89; whereas an increase of Rs 1.48 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 352.00 as compared to the last closing of Rs 350.52.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 14 paise each to close at

Rs 78.28 and Rs 76.66 respectively.

Gold rates up by Rs800 to Rs 211,800 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.800 and was sold at Rs 211,800 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 211,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 181,584 from Rs 180,898 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 166,452 from Rs 165,824, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,580 and 2,211.93 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$2 to \$1960 from \$1,958, the Association reported.

ICCI for promoting ease of doing business to revive economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Monday urged the government to promote ease of doing business, besides simplifying the tax system to revive the economy and enhance revenue collection to attain sustainable economic growth and development.

Talking to President, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Faraz ur Rehman visited ICCI, President, ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the Federal Board of Revenue had assured the IMF to bring 1.5 million new taxpayers into the tax system by the end of June 2024.

However, the current tax system of the country was creating problems for taxpayers instead of facilitating them due to which the potential taxpayers shy

away from this system, he observed.

Ahsan Bakhtawari urged the government for bring drastic reforms in the tax system in consultation with the stakeholders to make it business-friendly, which would significantly increase the country's tax revenue.

He said that appointing more tax officers in the RTOs was not the real solution to the problem, rather reduced tax rates and a simple tax system could attract more taxpayers.

Speaking on the occasion, Faraz ur Rehman said that the country's exports had dwindled by 5% during July-September this year as compared to last year while the country needed substantial increase in exports to revive the economy.

He urged the government to address the key issues of the export sector enabling it to play an active

role to steer the economy out of crisis situation.

The export sector needed easy credit to expand & grow, but the 22 percent interest rate in Pakistan was a major obstacle in its development, due to which, during July-October this year, the credit to private sector shrunk by over 290% as compared to the same period of last year, he added.

He said that only the business sector could bring the economy out of the current troubles, however, it needed lower production cost and ease of doing business to put the economy on the path of sustainable growth.

He resolved that KATI would play its role in cooperation with ICCI to promote the interests of the business community.

Group Leader ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, said that the business communi-

ty was driving the economy and urged the government to consult them to formulate short- and long-term policies for revival of the economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the United Business Group had nominated a young and emerging industrialist from Islamabad as its Presidential candidate for FPCCI and hoped that after winning, he would set new standards of serving the cause of the business community.

Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh resolved that if he wins the FPCCI election, he will work closely with the government to address the key issues of the business community and facilitate them in business promotion.

EFU GI honoured with 13th Annual Fire & Safety Award 2023

F.P. Report

KARACHI: EFU General Insurance Ltd., the leading non-life insurer in Pakistan, was honoured with the 13th Annual Fire & Safety Award 2023 at an event organised by the National Forum of Environment & Health at a local hotel.

The award was received by Mr. Wahaj Ur Rehman Khan - EFU General Insurance.

This laurel is yet another testament to EFU General's ongoing commitment to adopting and implementing robust fire and safety management systems across its network throughout Pakistan.



KCCI advised to identify exportable products for Kenyan market

KARACHI (PPI): High Commissioner of Kenya Ms. Nyambura Kamau has requested

Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) to submit its input at the Ministry of Commerce about exportable products which can be supplied by Karachi to Kenya so that the same could also be negotiated in the next Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting to be held soon.

"We want to ensure that Karachi's business community is not left behind and they also benefit from expanded trade between the two countries," said Kenyan High Commissioner, according to a KCCI statement released on Monday.

"One of the issues to be negotiated by JTC pertains to exchanging list of tradeable goods between the two countries. Our proposal will be that Pakistan and Kenya should identify at least 20 products each having competitive advantage to expand trade which currently remains confined to exporting tea from Kenya and rice from Pakistan."

Exchanging views at a meeting during her visit to KCCI, Ms. Nyambura Kamau said, "Under the bilateral trade agreement between Kenya and

Pakistan signed in 1983, a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was formulated which was scheduled to meet in April 2022 but it couldn't and now, Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce has given go ahead for JTC Meeting and we are waiting for confirmation of date from the Kenyan delegation."

Honorary Consul General Kenya Muhammad Hanif Janoo, President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Senior Vice President Altaf A. Ghaffar, Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Barry, Former President Majyd Aziz and KCCI Managing Committee Members were also present on the occasion.

Kenyan High Commissioner, while identifying Karachi as the most important city in Pakistan, said that the city successfully represents huge percentage of commercial interest of Pakistan. "We recognize the importance of Karachi as this is the place from where most of the Kenyan goods including tea get access to Pakistani market and beyond. We are, hence, really interested in creating linkages with Karachi's business community through KCCI because of its strategic location to

achieve the development agenda of both our countries."

She said that Kenya and Pakistan, who have a long history of relations dating back to 1964, enjoy cordial bilateral relations largely dominated by trade and investment. "Next year, we will be celebrating 60 years since Pakistan opened its mission in Nairobi and 40 years since Kenya opened its high commission in Islamabad."

She stressed the need to exchange investment opportunities, regular visits of business delegations, technology transfer & information sharing along with expansion of exportable products between Kenya and Pakistan.

She also mentioned that Kenyan High Commission has taken many initiatives to enhance trade, investment and economic cooperation in the light of strong relationship between the two countries.

"We are committed to moving forward in the direction of achieving full potential of trade and investment by working closely with relevant stakeholders from the government and private sectors of both countries."

To strengthen business

relations, she suggested to develop a mechanism for addressing barriers to trade and investment, organizing joint business networking meetings, seminars, exhibitions, trade fairs and other promotional activities.

Earlier, President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, while welcoming the Kenyan High Commissioner, stated that Pakistan and Kenya have been enjoying excellent relations since 60s when Pakistan expressed its support for Kenya in getting independence from the British rule.

He said that Karachi offers a conducive business environment with a rapidly growing market.

The city's strategic location as a major port and its well-established industrial base makes it an ideal destination for foreign investments.

"We, at KCCI, are committed to facilitating and supporting collaborations that bring mutual benefits to both countries."

He also extended full support and cooperation of Karachi Chamber to Kenyan High Commissioner for all its future endeavors towards further strengthening the trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors busy in purchasing bunches of banana from a delivery truck at fruit & vegetable market.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The shipping activity reported at the port where four ships namely, Clipper Fair, Silver Eleanor, Sea Bulk and Nikitis, scheduled to load/offload Rice, Steel coil, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Grain Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Abyand Alberta also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours. A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Clipper Fair and Ioannis Theo are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 117,640 tonnes, comprising 91,906 tonnes imports cargo and 25,734 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,541 Containers (537 TEUs Imports and 1,004 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 11 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them 03 ships, Ayati, Al-Berta and MSC Aby& two more ships, Kyparissia and Suape Express scheduled to load/offload Cement, Coal and Containers are expected to take berths at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on Monday. Meanwhile five more ships, MSC Madeleine, MSC Nassu, Maersk Denver, CSL Manhattan and Milaha Raslaffan are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Industrialists decry hike in gas tariff

KARACHI (PPI): The industrialists at an emergency meeting of SITE Association of Industry (SAI) on Monday devised a strategy for future line of action in view of recent exorbitant increase in the industrial gas tariff and said that the industries of Karachi have become unviable to operate and majority of the industries (export and general industries) may not survive and will close down due to high gas tariff.

SAI leaders while addressing the meeting, stated that industries are already facing a hard time to compete with neighboring countries in the international markets due to high production cost while current exorbitant increase in gas tariff is, in no way viable for them.

They said that in the SITE area, being located at the tail-end of the network of SSGC, there is no guarantee of gas pressure despite increase in gas tariff. Due to unavailability of gas and poor pressure, industrialists of SITE are forced to use alternate fuels like wood & coal which are not only creating environmental compliance issues for the exporting industries but are also contributing to deforestation in the country.

"It seems that industrialists are being forced to close down their units in Karachi which will not only add to joblessness in the city but will also create law & order issues due to sudden increase in street crimes as a result of joblessness of thousands of workers." They remarked.

The members also expressed their reservations over the government's subsidy policy, which it said, favoured the fertilizer and domestic sectors at the expense of industries (whether general or export-oriented).

SBP to facilitate business community

FAISALABAD (APP): State Bank of Pakistan will make best efforts to facilitate the business community in stabilizing the national economy on a solid and sustained basis.

This was stated by SBP Deputy Governor Saleemullah while addressing a reception hosted by Mian Muhammad Adrees, former FPCCI President FPCCI, FCCI and former International Director Lions Club in his honour. The function was also attended by leading businessmen and bankers in addition to the members of FCCI.

Speaking on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Adrees appreciated the services of Saleemullah said that he had already served Faisalabad and his prudent decision making was being still remembered. He particularly mentioned the strategy of SBP during corona pandemic and said that policies adopted during this period had helped Pakistan to enhance its exports in addition to providing job protection to millions of workers.

He said that subsidized loans were also provided to the traders which helped

them to survive during this deep global slump and closure of business centres. He said the SBP should once again evolve a strategy in order to catalyse the private sector to offset the ill-effects of the historically highest inflation and mark-up rate.

Later, Mian Muhammad Javed Iqbal of Sitara Energy offered vote of thanks while President FCCI Dr Khurram Tariq, Senior Vice President Dr Sajjad Arshad and Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhatti were also present on the occasion.

87 gas connections disconnected: SNGPL

F.P. Report

LAHORE: SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad during the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers and disconnected 87 connections while 128 under billing cases processed and also imposed fine amounting to Rs 4.59 million.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 6 connections on illegal use of gas while another 12 on use of compressor.

In Bahawalpur the company disconnected two connections on the use of compressor and 58 under billing cases have been processed

and amount of Rs 0.16 against under billing cases.

The regional team in Multan disconnected 2 connections on illegal use of gas while another 3 on use of compressor and 23 under billing cases have been processed. The team imposed fine of Rs 0.05 million against gas pilferers.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 26 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.64 million against gas theft and under billing cases and 1 FIR lodged against gas thieves.

In Mardan, 15 connections were disconnected on

illegal use of gas, Rs 0.63 million amount booked against gas theft cases. The regional team in Islamabad disconnected 4 connections on illegal use of gas.

In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on illegal use of gas.

In Faisalabad 10 under billing cases processed.

The team imposed fine of Rs 0.18 million against under billing in Sialkot.

In Sheikhupura, the team disconnected 16 on illegal use of gas and 37 under billing cases have been processed and amount of Rs 2.93 million have been booked against gas theft and under billing cases.

Xiaomi's Fan-tastic Meetup succeeded

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Xiaomi, the renowned technology giant, is delighted to announce the overwhelming success of the "Xiaomi Fan-tastic Meetup," an exclusive fan event that took place in District 19, Karachi. This extraordinary gathering exceeded all expectations, delivering an immersive experience for Xiaomi enthusiasts, and leaving attendees with unforgettable memories. The Xiaomi Fantastic Meetup, which unfolded on November 11, 2023, was indeed a resounding success. Here's a glimpse of what transpired during this remarkable event:

The highlight of the evening was the electrifying performance by the legendary band Noori. The crowd was enthralled by the mesmerizing tunes and high-energy show, creating an electric atmosphere that resonated with the audience. Also arranged was the gaming section which provided endless entertainment, featuring classic games like Ludo and Jenga. Attendees reveled in friendly competition, enjoying quality time with fellow fans and making cherished memories. Xiaomi's commitment to its fans was evident through exclusive giveaways, creating an atmosphere of excitement and gratitude. Lucky attendees left the event with exciting prizes, feeling appreciated for their unwavering support.

Additionally the meetup provided a unique opportunity

for fans to connect with their favorite social media influencers and celebrities.

Attendees snapped photos, exchanged stories, and forged meaningful connections with these digital icons.

The Xiaomi Fantastic Meetup was more than just an event; it was a unique experience that resonated with Xiaomi's dedicated fan base. From technology enthusiasts to music lovers, food connoisseurs, sports fans, and those seeking a day of entertainment, everyone found something special at this event. The success of the Xiaomi Fantastic Meetup has left a lasting impact and cherished memories for all those who attended. It was a day filled with excitement, innovation, and celebration.

SECP registers 2,463 new companies in Oct

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,463 new companies in October 2023, raising the total number of registered companies to 205,456.

The cumulative capitalization (paid-up capital) of newly incorporated companies is PKR 4.24 billion, said a press release issued here.

About 56% of companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41% were registered as single-member companies.

The remaining 3% were registered as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability

partnerships (LLPs), and foreign companies.

Almost 99.6 per cent of companies were registered online, and three foreign companies have also established places of business in Pakistan.

The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation with 326 companies, trading with 322, services with 298, real estate development and construction with 290, education with 107, tourism with 100, food & beverages with 90, e-commerce and mining & quarrying with 67 each, corporate agricultural farming with 63, marketing & advertisement with 61, textile with 55, pharmaceutical with 54, transport with 49, engineer-

ing and chemical with 45 each, power generation with 44, healthcare with 32, cosmetics & toiletries with 31, broadcasting & telecasting with 30, lodging with 28, communications with 24, cables & electrical goods, and paper & board with 16 each, and 203 companies were registered in other sectors.

As a result of integration with FBR and other provincial departments, the SECP eService was used by 2,281 companies for registration with FBR; 61 companies got registration with the Employees Old Age Benefit Institute (EOBI); 27 companies with PESSI/SESSI; and 34 companies with the excise and taxation departments.



In brief

Naseem, Ahsan qualify
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueists Muhammad Naseem Akhtar and Ahsan Ramzan have qualified for the last 28 Round of the IBSF World 6 Red Snooker Championship 2023 at Doha, Qatar. On 2nd day matches result, Muhammad Naseem Akhtar (Pak) beat Santosh Putuwar (Nepal) 4-1 (39-29, 0-42, 45-07(40), 46-05(32), 38-36) and also downed Cheung Ka Wai (Hong Kong China) 4-1 (38-31, 76-24(69), 59-06(59), 29-38, 44-04(34)). Meanwhile Rodion Judin(Latvia) defeated Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) 4-2 (50-15, 75-0(41), 13-51, 45-0(45), 0-48(48), 71-0(71)). The semifinals and final of the championship would be played on November 15.

Ali Noman lifts trophy
KARACHI (APP): Ali Noman lifted trophy of Pakistan Open Tenpin Bowling at Karachi while Ayyan Bhatti and Zeeshan Bhatti obtained 2nd and 3rd position, respectively. President of Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijaz ur Rehman was the chief guest and gave away the trophies, medals and cash awards to the winning players. Senior Vice President, of Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Khawaja Ahmed Mustaqeem, Secretary General, Muhammad Hussain Chattha, Information Secretary, Rana Tanveer Ahmed, Sardar Abbas Khan Suldera, Syed Muhammad Khurram Shah Jilani and a large number of people were also present on the occasion. Men's single results; Ali Noman lifted the trophy with 894 points while Ayyan Bhatti obtained 2nd position with 820 points and Zeeshan Bhatti bagged 3rd position with 819 points. Ahmer Suldera finished fourth position with 814 points. Men's double results Ali Noman and Zeeshan Bhatti won the double titles while Ali Saldera and Ibrahim Saldera got 2nd position and Muhammad Waqas and Ahmer Saldera secured 3rd position. Ali Suria and Daniyal Shah ended in fourth position.

Patrons 47th Aibak Polo Cup
LAHORE (APP): Continuing the tradition of honoring former Muslim King Qutbuddin Aibak, the prestigious Patrons 47th Aibak Polo Cup 2023 commences at the Lahore Polo Club grounds on Tuesday (tomorrow). Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, in anticipation of the historic eight-goal event spanning two weeks, expressed excitement and gratitude towards the tournament's patrons. "The Aibak Polo Cup, named after the revered King Qutbuddin Aibak, is a testament to our rich heritage. "A heartfelt thanks to our generous patrons whose generous sponsorship makes this historic tournament possible. Their commitment to the sport of polo contributes to the thriving legacy of the Lahore Polo Club," Azam Hayat Noon asserted. The Lahore Polo Club president further said: "Eight teams, divided into Pool A and Pool B, will compete, culminating in the main final on November 26 at the historic Aibak Polo ground. The Pool A consists of Newage Cables/Master Paints, Master Paints, DS Polo/Sheikhoo Steel and FG/Din Polo while Pool B comprises Diamond Paints, Pebble Breaker, Remounts and Team Barry's."

Morkel resigns as Pakistan fast-bowling coach

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's bowling coach Morne Morkel has resigned from his post, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Monday, two days after the South Asian country's World Cup campaign ended on a disappointing note with a defeat in their last match against England. Morkel, a former South African cricketer, was appointed to the post on a six-month contract in June. His resignation follows Pakistan's hapless performance in this year's World Cup in India, which saw the green shirts lose five of their nine matches, including a humiliating seven-wicket defeat to arch-rivals India in Ahmedabad.

Pakistan's pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Hassan Ali went for expensive runs against Australia, England, India, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan



during the tournament. Pakistani spinners, particularly vice-captain Shadab Khan, failed to impress throughout the tournament as they were unable to trouble batters and conceded too many runs.

"Morne Morkel has resigned as the bowling coach of the Pakistan Men's team," the PCB said in a statement. "Pakistan Cricket Board will

announce his replacement in due course."

This is the second high-profile resignation to rock Pakistan cricket since last month. On Oct. 30, Pakistan's chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down from his post following media reports that suggested he had a stake in a company that contracted several Pakistan players for marketing and commercial

promotions. Haq said he was resigning to offer the PCB the opportunity to conduct a "transparent inquiry" about the conflict-of-interest allegations raised against him in the media.

Pakistan's poor performance in the World Cup has also caused former cricketers and fans to question Azam's role as skipper of the national squad, with many calling on the board to sack him as captain and appoint a new one instead.

Fans have accused Azam of being too defensive in taking decisions and including players in the national squad on the basis of his friendships with them. Azam and the PCB have categorically rejected the allegations.

Pakistan's next assignment is a three-match Test series against Australia scheduled to take place from Dec.14, 2023, to Jan. 7, 2024, in Australia.

Peshawar Region wins PM Youth Talent Hunt Girls Badminton League

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Region beat Mardan Region by 3-2 to clinched the title of Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Girls Badminton League, Hazara region secured third position.

Five different regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took part in the leagues. General Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association, Amjad Khan, was the chief guest in the final ceremony and distributed prizes among the players.

Coaches of Directorate of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bushra, Nadeem Khan, Hayatullah, District Sports Officer were also present. Kohat University of Information Technology, hosted the league in Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex, Charsadda.

In the first singles, Amber of Peshawar defeated Uroog of Mardan by 21-17 and 21-15.

In doubles, Suman and Sapna of Mardan defeated Noor and Amber of Peshawar by 21-19 and 21-16.



In the third match, Mardan's Sapna defeated Noor of Peshawar by 21-12 and 21-17, in the fourth match, Faryal Tanuzman of Peshawar defeated Uroog and Atiq of Mardan by 21-11 and 21-19, while

in the last single, Faryal of Peshawar defeated Suman by 21-14 and 21-19, and won the trophy by 3-2. Coach Bushra played an important role in Peshawar region victory.

Sehwag, de Silva and Edulji go into Cricket Hall of Fame



NEW DELHI (AFP) : India's Virender Sehwag, Sri Lankan batsman Aravinda de Silva and pioneering Indian women's captain Diana Edulji have been inducted into cricket's Hall of Fame, the game's governing body announced Monday.

They will be honored at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai during the World Cup semifinal between

India and New Zealand on Wednesday. The Int'l Cricket Council has recognized 109 players in the ICC Cricket Hall Of Fame since its launch in 2009.

De Silva, 58, enjoyed a 19-year international career for Sri Lanka, playing a starring role in their memorable World Cup triumph in 1996. In 93 Tests, he scored 6,361 runs at an average of

42.97 and collected 9,284 runs from 308 ODIs while taking 106 wickets.

De Silva made his Test debut at Lord's in 1984, and a year later scored 75 as Sri Lanka recorded its first-ever Test win against India. In 1991, he struck a then-national record individual score of 267 against New Zealand at Wellington. Sehwag, 45, played a key part in India's World Cup winning campaign at home in 2011, and scored over 17,000 runs in international cricket during a stellar 14-year career.

He transformed the opener's role in Test cricket through his trademark explosive approach to batting. Edulji, who became the first Indian woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, played a pioneering

role in establishing the most successful domestic team in Indian women's cricket history.

A right-handed batter and slow left-arm bowler, Edulji took 109 wickets in Test and ODIs. When she retired after the World Cup in 1993, she had taken more wickets in international cricket than anyone except Australia's Lyn Fullston.

"These three figures have revolutionized the sport in their own way, and have provided fans with some of the most unforgettable moments in recent memory," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement. "Their lasting contributions to cricket mean they are richly deserving of their status in the ICC Hall of Fame."

City Gulbahar wins overall Inter-College Athletic Trophy, as Mehkan declared best athlete

PESHAWAR (APP): City Gulbahar clinched the overall as Mehkan of the same college declared as best athlete after winning four gold medals in the Inter-College Girls Athletic Championship played under the aegis of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University at its premises on Monday.

Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Professor Dr. Safia Ahmad was the chief guest on this occasion. Deputy Director Sports Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Mariyyah Samin, Deputy Director Sports Higher Education Department Arshad Hussain, Organizing Secretary Miss Najma Qazi, officials and players were also present.

The Athletic Meet was officiated by the officials from Pakistan Air Force (PAF) with more than 15 colleges taking part in the Athletic Meet conducted at newly formed athletic track at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Campus.

Mehkan of City Girls College Gulbahar won gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and Discuss Throw. In the 100m sprint race Sameeda, also from City Gulbahar, claimed silver medal, Marwa of Govt Degree College Tangai took bronze medal while Mahnoor of Govt Girls Degree College Zaryab, Humeera of Frontier College for Women and Hira of Govt Girls Degree College Nahaqi got fourth, fifth and sixth position respectively.

In the 200m Mehkan won gold medal, followed by Bakhtawar of Girls College Jamrud won silver, Hina of FCW won bronze medals and Hira of Nahaqi, Sameeda of City Gulbahar and Humaira of FCW claimed fourth, fifth and sixth position respectively.

In the District Throw Mehkan won gold medal, followed by Rabia of Zaryab College with silver and Salma of Dabgari Girls College won bronze medal, Dilraz of Girls College Tangi, Ulfat of Shaheed

Benazir Bhutto Women University and Sameeda of City Gulbahar secured fourth, fifth, and sixth position respectively.

In the 400m Mehkan of City Gulbahar won gold medal, followed by Haseeba of Charsadda No. 1, Sameeda of City Gulbahar took bronze medal while Malika of Dargai Girls College, and Malika of SBBWU took fourth and fifth position respectively.

In the High Jump Munaza of Gulshan Rehman won gold medal, followed by Marwa of Ekkaghund Girls College and Sameeda of City Gulbahar took third position by winning bronze medals. In the Long Jump Sameeda of City Gulbahar won gold medal, followed by Seema of Bacha Khan Girls College, Rabia of Girls College Zaryab won bronze medal while Marwa of Girls College Tangai and Aiman of Tangai got fourth and fifth positions respectively.

In the Javelin throw

Zohra created a new BISE record with her 72.11feet throw by beating the old 71.9feet, followed by Haseeba with 64.9feet and Sameeda 64.5feet, Areeba of Gulshan Rehman 63.11feet, Laiba of Gulshin Rehman Girls College 63.2, Saba of City Gulbahar (63.1fee) and Nayab of FCW (62.9fee).

In the shot-put throw Zohra of City Gulbahar won gold medal, followed by Irsa Ali of City Gulbahar, Sadia of Hayatabad No. 1, Bakhtawar of SBBWU, Aisha FCW and Salma of Girls College Dargai. In the 800m race Laila of FCW won the gold medal, followed by Basnoor of Girls College Jamrud, Wajiha of City Gulbahar, Fajar of Nahaqi, Gul Rukh of Girls College Charsadda and Hira of Nahaqi. In the 4X100 relay race City Gulbahar claimed the gold medal, followed by FCW team Nahaqi, SBBWU, Tangai and Zaryab took third, fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Peshawar, Fata, Karachi Whites, Multan in Pakistan Cup semis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peshawar, Fata, Karachi Whites and Multan have moved in the semifinals of Pakistan Cup 2023-24, played at four venues across Rawalpindi, AJK and Abbottabad.

The first semi-final would be played between Peshawar and Fata on November 16 while the second semi-final will be held between Karachi Whites and Multan on November 17. The tournament final would be played on November 19. All three games will be played at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Meanwhile, in the seventh round of Pakistan Cup 2023-24, played at four venues across Rawalpindi, AJK and Abbottabad, saw wins for Faisalabad, Multan, Fata and Karachi Whites.

Despite losing their game against Fata, Peshawar, with 11 points, topped the table and have thus qualified for the semi-finals of the Pakistan Cup along with Karachi Whites, Multan and Fata. Rawalpindi, despite equaling Fata's 8 points, failed to qualify owing to their inferior NRR.

Faisalabad beat Lahore Whites by 102 runs at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Faisalabad posted 293-8 in 45 overs after choosing to bat first against Lahore Whites at Pindi Cricket Stadium. Mohammad Faizan (70, 63b, 8x4s, 3x6s) and Muhammad Irfan Khan (70, 68b, 6x4s, 2x6s) were the prominent run-getters for the side. Shehzad Akhtar (36, 58b, 5x4s) and Mohammad Saleem (35, 33b, 2x4s, 1x6) also chipped in with crucial runs.

Right-arm pacer Aamer Jamal took three wickets and Lahore Whites skipper Saad Naseem returned with two wickets.

Lahore Whites had an abysmal start to the chase, with Abid Ali and Umar Akmal dismissed for ducks and Mohammad Akhlaq getting out for just one run.

Syed Zain-ul-Hasnain (10, 23b, 1x4) was caught behind soon after. Tayyab Tahir (46, 52b, 7x4s) and Saad (41, 44b, 4x4s, 2x6s) stitched together a valiant partnership of 75 runs, however, their efforts remained insufficient as the side was dismissed for 191 in 43.4 overs. Fighting knocks by Ahmed Daniyal (38, 42b, 1x4, 2x6s) and Fahad Munir (27, 72b, 1x4) went in vain. Khurram Shahzad bagged his second consecutive four-fer. Ali Asfand and Abubakar Khan accounted for two wickets each.

Multan beat Rawalpindi by three wickets. Rawalpindi scored 242-9 in the allotted 45 overs after being put into bat first by Multan at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Haider Ali hit an unbeaten half-century (78 not out, 70b, 2x4s, 5x6s) and was the top performer with the bat for his team. Opening batter Abdul Faseeh added a run-a-ball 68 (8x4s, 1x6) to the total. His fellow opener Rehman Khan chipped in with 33 from 42, including four boundaries and a six.

Leg-spinner Zahid Mehmood bagged three wickets. Right-arm pacer Mohammad Imran and Multan captain Sharoon Siraj got two wickets apiece. Sharjeel Khan's century (106, 84b, 10x4s, 7x6s) helped Multan turn the chase completely in their favor. Sharoon (63 not out, 68b, 3x4s, 2x6s) also hit an unbeaten half-century to help the side get over the line in 43.2 overs with three wickets to spare. All Rawalpindi bowlers returned with wickets; Kashif Ali and Farhan Shafiq, with two wickets each, were most successful of the lot.

Fata beat Peshawar by eight wickets at at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad. Fata banked on their decision to field first and bowled out Peshawar for 112 in 33 overs at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Left-arm pacer Usman Khan Shinwari registered the

fourth five-wicket haul of his List A career, giving only 14 runs in return. Right-arm fast bowler Irfanullah

Shah and left-arm spinner Asif Afridi claimed two wickets each.

Niaz Khan (40, 54b, 4x4s, 1x6), who was the ninth batter in, produced a fighting knock for Peshawar. The second-best score of the innings came from Sajid Khan's bat, hitting 29 from 32, including three fours and a six.

On the back of a half-century by Samiullah Jnr (64, 74b, 8x4s, 1x6), FATA cruised to the target of 113 in 25.3 overs, losing only two wickets in the process. Salman Khan Jnr (32 not out, 69b, 2x4s) was the other contributor with the bat. Mohammad Ilyas and Sajid Khan got a wicket each.

Karachi Whites beat Lahore Blues by six wickets at Mirpur Cricket Stadium, AJK. In the rain-delayed match, Lahore Blues scored 197-9 in the stipulated 40 overs, after being asked to bat first by Karachi Whites at Mirpur Cricket Stadium. Hussain Talat hit a half-century (51, 60b, 2x2s, 2x6s) after the top four failed to get going. Cameos by Kashif Bhatti (35 not out, 22b, 4x4s, 2x6s) and Hunain Shah (24, 23b, 3x6s) took the side to a fighting total. Left-arm spinner Danish Aziz, and fast bowlers Mir Hamza and Sohail Khan claimed two wickets each.

Although Shan Masood fell one short of his century but his fiery knock of 99 off 68 balls featuring 11 fours and two sixes ensured that Karachi Whites reach the target with ease. They scored 201-4 in 28.4 overs, winning the game comprehensively. Danish (32 not out, 52b, 2x4s, 1x6) was the second-highest scorer for the side. Left-arm spinner Kashif Bhatti claimed two wickets while right-arm pacer Hunain Shah and leg-spinner Usman Qadir got a wicket each.

Unseeded Hamza down Bilal in World Jr Tennis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Unseeded upcoming youngster Hamza Roman defeated third seed Bilal Asim in the first-round match of ITF Pakistan J30 World Junior Tennis Championships here at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Monday.

Meanwhile, all seeded players advanced to the next round without being put to test by their adversaries in the Championships.

In the opening match, upcoming youngster Hamza Roman after losing the 1st game by hitting a double fault and down 0-1 played aggressive tennis and broke back the 2nd game of Bilal Asim in the same style and levelled the score 1 game all. Hamza continued his winning pace and broke the 4th and 6th game of Bilal Asim and won the first set comfortably 6-1.

In the second set, Bilal Asim changed the pattern of the game by playing a mix of cross-court and down-the-line shots, and serve and volley games. Both the players played an excellent game of tennis and reached 4 games. At this stage, Hamza Roman made some

unforced errors and hit the ball into the net resulting in losing the 10th game and 2nd set at 4-6. In the decisive set both the players exhibited a high standard of tennis and long rallies ultimately finished in favour of Hamza Roman at 7-5. The match lasted 2 hours and 29 minutes and was chaired by ITF White Badge Umpire Husnain Mehmood.

The President PTF Senator Salim Saifullah Khan and Tariq Mehmood Murtaza President of Islamabad Tennis Association in a message, conveyed their best wishes to all participants and foreign players. They also thanked the Islamabad Police for the provision of foolproof security coverage.

Mrs. Zarmeeneh Rahim was the Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony. The Ceremony was also attended by Col.Gul Rehman (R) Secretary General-PTF, Arif Qureshi Tournament Referee, Khalil Chughtai Treasurer-PTF, and a large number of players, Parents, and Coaches.

In Boys Singles 1st Round, Ahmad Nael

Qureshi (PAK) beat Mustansir Ali Khan Barons (PAK) 6-1, 6-0, Aahil Kaleel (SRI) beat Muhammad Kashaan Tariq Qureshi (PAK) 6-3, 6-3 6-2, Taichi Tamura (JPN) beat Muhammad Haider Ali Rizwan (PAK) 2-6 6-3 6-3, Jain Pyun (KOR) beat Abdullah Khan (PAK) 6-2 6-1, Hamza Roman (PAK) beat Bilal Asim (PAK) 6-1 4-6 7-5, Toki Adachi (JPN) beat Inam Qadir (PAK) 6-0 6-2, Muhammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) beat Thanathip Poti (THA) 6-1 6-3, Nageeb Hussain (SRI) beat Muhammad Husnain Ali Rizwan (PAK) 6-0 6-0, Asad Zaman (PAK) beat Abdul Baasith Cader (SRI) 6-1 6-2, Yoshito Oda (JPN) beat Ahtesham Humayun (PAK) 6-4 6-1, Takuto Fuke (JPN) beat Rayyan Khan (PAK) 6-0 6-1, Amir Muhammad Khan Mazari (PAK) beat Doruk Elbirlik (TUR) 3-6 6-4 6-4, Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Shehryaar Anees (PAK) 6-3 6-1, Gehash Tissera (SRI) beat Ibrahim Sohail (PAK) 6-0 4-6 6-2, Hamid Israr Gul (PAK) beat Muhammad Salar Khan (PAK) 6-4 7-5.

Shafiq elected PFRA President

ISLAMABAD (APP): The election wheels of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) have been set in motion with the initiation of the election process, coinciding with the election of new office-bearers for the Pakistan Football Referee Association (PFRA) on Monday.

Muhammad Shafiq was elected unopposed PFRA President while Waheed Murad was elected Senior Vice President, Imtiaz Ali Shah Vice President, and Saeed Khan Secretary General of the PFRA (all unopposed).

The other elected office-bearers include Arfan Aslam as Treasurer, Arsalan Sharif as Assistant Secretary and three mem-

bers Muhammad Ashraf, Qaiser Ali and Muhammad Arsalan Sharif, said a press release.

Shafiq expressed joy at the return of football in Pakistan and the historic qualification for the second round of the FIFA World Cup.

He also noted the promising progress in the PFF elections, expressing optimism that the effective management by the Normalisation Committee will continue guiding the federation.

Waheed Murad, Senior Vice President, said that the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) is supervising the PFRA elections, ensuring everyone has an equal right to vote. "For the first time, I along with

my community cast a vote that never happened before, and I also hoped that the PFF would continue to conduct future elections with the same transparency."

Saeed Khan, newly-elected PFRA General Secretary, said that they'll strive to excel in the Referee Community, continuing the positive efforts from the past.

Highlighting the significance of refereeing in football, he expressed their commitment to elevating it to the next level as their duty.

"We want to appreciate the PFF NC for initiating and organizing such a mega event that could not have been possible without their support," he said.



In brief

Nadeem visits training institute of health

ISLAMABAD (APP) : Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan Monday visited the Regional Training Institute of Health and received briefing and inspected the attendance sheet. He expressed displeasure over the absence of the Vice Principal. He directed to issue explanatory letter on his continuous absence. The minister said that all the staff would have to work with dedication and passion for development of the institution. Dr. Nadeem Jan ensured implementation of the health sector reforms agenda, adding the government was taking practical measures to improve the health sector.

IRSA releases 107,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 107,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 59,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1512.22 feet and was 112.22 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,200 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.30 feet, which was 141.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 10,800 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,900, 50,900, 35,600 and 7,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,000 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 8,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Death anniversary of Sohail observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Veteran actor Sohail Asghar was remembered on the occasion of his second death anniversary on Monday. Born in Lahore on June 15, 1954, he worked as a radio jockey from 1978 to 1988. He was introduced in TV drama Raat by a PTV Lahore director Nusrat Thakur. He was known for his roles in TV serials such as Laag, Piyas, Chand Girhan, Khuda ki Basti and Kajal Ghar. Asghar made his film debut in 2003 with Murad. He got the best actor award for the year 2002 at the 12th PTV Awards show organized to mark 40 years of Pakistan Television. Sohail Asghar died after a protracted illness in a hospital in Lahore on November 13, 2021.

Nine gamblers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested nine gamblers and recovered bet money Rs 36,800, 06 mobile phones from their possession during a crackdown here on Monday. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Wah police conducted a raid and arrested those gamblers who were identified as Saeed, Khuram, Zaheer Shah, Kashif, Iqbal, Syed Zowar, Daniyal, Rafafat, and Tanveer. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and started an investigation. SP Potohar commended the police team and said that gambling is the root of all social evils, such accused cannot escape from the grip of the law. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have also arrested 07 illegal arms holders and liquor suppliers during the operation. Police have recovered illegal weapons and liquor from their possession while further investigation was in progress.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating the newly built Islamabad Traffic Police Headquarters.

SAPM explores opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, is on his first official visit to Saudi Arabia, which is aimed at fostering collaboration and exploring employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom.

According to a press release here Monday, the visit will focus on major mega development projects that are set to open vast employment avenues, for unskilled professional in general and for skilled professionals in particular from Pakistan. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has initiated several groundbreaking projects that are expected to significantly impact the labor market.

Among the key projects that will be part of discussion, for seeking employment opportunities for Pakistan migrant workers, during the visit are; Red Sea Project, Development Plan of Extension of the Holy City of Makkah, Jabal Omar, Recreational

Tourism Projects, New Taif City, The NEOM Project, Qiddiva Project - The Capital of Entertainment Sports, Diriyah Gates, AIUla - UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hammaya Program, King Salman Park and Green Riyadh.

These projects offer extensive opportunities for employment, especially in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, media policy, strategy and research, health and safety specialists, project coordination & managerial strategy, financial modeling, eco-system-based management specialists, senior water scientists, climate action directors, managers of geo-thermal energy, solar generation specialists, and more.

During the visit, the discussions will also revolve around the evolving labor market trends in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM, during his meetings with Saudia Arabia's Minister for Labor, Vice Minister of Labor and top Saudi Companies, will highlight the need and advocate for more opportunities for Pakistani skilled and unskilled labour workforce

in a broader range of sectors, including construction, hospitality, services, nursing and care. The SAPM will also convince Saudi counterpart for hiring Pakistani workers over those from other countries by presenting the competitive advantages of Pakistani skilled and unskilled workforce.

Recognizing the current predominance of Pakistani workers in lower skill categories in Saudi Arabia, the SAPM will emphasize the importance of expanding opportunities for professionals and highly skilled individuals as well.

Particular attention will be given to the NEOM Project, a major development endeavor in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM has planned to propose the dedication of a special quota for Pakistani skilled and semi-skilled workers for NEOM and other upcoming projects. Additionally, the discussions will include a proposal for Saudi Arabia to establish a state-of-the-art Skill University in Pakistan, further aligning the two nations in their pursuit of economic transformation.

'Nawaz Sharif prepares road map for removing poverty, inflation'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Abid Shair Ali on Monday said that Nawaz Sharif has prepared a road map for removing poverty and inflation from this country. The people had observed and acknowledged the working style of Nawaz Sharif in the past, he said while talking to PTV. The entire nation would support former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the next elections on completing many development projects in Pakistan, he said.

"We will receive majority votes in the general elections from all provinces on previous performance and delivery to masses," he said. Commenting on the role of the Pakistan Peoples Party in forthcoming elections, he said that the PPP should show development works to the people of Sindh so that candidates of the PPP group could grab votes in general elections.

In reply to a question about a pre-police alliance with the Mutahida Quomi Movement, he said that PML-N has taken the decision to contest general elections with a seat adjustment formula. He hoped that his party would win the next elections from Sindh also with the help of MQM.

Students from University of Faisalabad visits Safe City

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the delegation of University of Faisalabad students, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project.

Furthermore, the student delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

Bugti for ranking ITP among best forces of world

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti has said that Islamabad Traffic Police should be ranked among the best forces not only in the country but also in the world due to its discipline and performance.

He made the remarks while inaugurating the new building of traffic police's headquarters in Faizabad Islamabad.

The Interior Minister applauded the performance of the Islamabad traffic police, emphasizing that they should continue to carry out their duties for the rule of law without any discrimination.

He assured that there would be no political pressure on the police and that the force would receive full support regardless of financial constraints.

The event was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers and a large number of officials.

The ceremony was graced by Interim Federal Minister for Interior as the chief guest. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the Chief Guest. The newly established Traffic Office aims to streamline traffic-related affairs and facilitate the citizens of Islamabad.

During his address, Interim Federal

Minister for Interior stated, "Law is equal for everyone; ensure its enforcement without any bias. Let your commitment to public service be your motto. You have been chosen by Allah for this service; take pride in your responsibilities."

ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted the achievements of the Islamabad Capital Police in efficiently managing traffic during adverse weather conditions and construction activities. He praised the use of modern technology, including citywide surveillance cameras, to enforce traffic laws and issue e-challan for violators.

ICCP further said that, the Islamabad Capital Police, with 600 officers and officials is currently handling the city's traffic but there is an urgent need for additional 2600 personnel to address the growing population and traffic challenges.

He commended the continuous efforts of the police force in maintaining traffic flow and providing optimal travel facilities for the citizens.

The Islamabad Capital Police is always engaged in maintaining the flow of traffic in the federal capital of Islamabad and providing the best travel facilities to the citizens, he maintained.

7th cohort of national faculty development programme for IPFP fellows concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) marked the successful conclusion of the seventh Cohort of the Pre-Service National Faculty Development Programme (NDFP) 2023, designed for Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) Phase-II (Batch-IV).

This enriching three-week training programme was attended by 22 PhD Fellows and was held at HEC Regional Centre in Lahore, said a press release on Monday.

Ms. Noor Amna Malik, Managing Director NAHE, was the chief guest in the closing ceremony.

She congratulated the participants on the successful completion of their training. She elaborated the profound impact

of these initiatives, emphasizing how they significantly enhance the learning accomplishments of both educators and students alike.

She emphasized that the participants, who have gained an array of soft skills, teaching tools, and techniques during their training, will have the opportunity to implement these valuable learnings in their professional careers.

Ms. Malik commended the unwavering commitment of the NAHE team to the facilitation of faculty development programmes, recognizing their dedication to fostering educational excellence. While underscoring the importance of well-trained educators, She urged the participants to actively engage and con-

tribute toward elevating standards within the education sector.

Noor Amna Malik encouraged the participants to embrace this responsibility and become catalysts for positive change within their academic spheres, thereby contributing to the broader national narrative of progress and achievement.

During the training, participants engaged in a range of activities, including daily interactive sessions, group projects, presentations, and assignments related to various modules of the programme. It is worth mentioning that the successful completion of NDFP is a prerequisite for placing IPFP fellows at Higher Education Institutions for one year.

CDA initiates studies for recycling of Solid Waste

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated studies for recycling and disposal of the Capital's Solid Waste intending to reduce environmental pollution which is posing a threat to the health of the general public.

"The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, haulage, treatment and disposal, rapid assessment report of landfill sites Islamabad and communication and behaviour change strategy," an official told APP. The Urban Unit Lahore carried out studies during the period from January to March 2023 with a total cost of Rs. 21.926175 million.

However, this is an unfortunate

fact that CDA has been unable to develop an inter-national system for solid waste disposal, in the capital owing to land availability and legal issues.

The authority is working on developing a system whereby it will be initiating a mechanism of solid waste minimization, reuse, segregation at source and recycling of waste keeping in view the standards for optimum disposal using the method of landfilling. These activities will take an approximate time of one year. It is also pertinent to mention here that CDA launched a pilot project to segregate solid waste last year to reduce environmental pollution and use items for recycling on a commercial basis.

It is a critical requirement since it enables

recycling, reuse, treatment, and scientific disposal of different components of waste. Sorting out waste makes it easier to understand how to reduce general waste output, identify items that can be reused, and set aside others that should be recycled. Waste segregation practices and a workforce that understands the importance of sorting waste prevent items suitable for recycling from being thrown away with general waste.

Approximately 700 tons of solid waste are collected and transported by the Sanitation Directorate and Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) from the federal capital daily. The waste segregation also makes it easier to apply different processes-composting, recycling, and incineration.

ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations managed to recover 225 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 59 hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger, leaving for Bahrain on flight number GF-768.

81 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger at Multan Airport. The accused, a resident of Lahore, was leaving for Sharjah by flight number PA-812.

105 kg hashish was

recovered from an accused resident of Quetta in an operation conducted on Hazarganji Road Quetta.

Five kg of hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered in an uninhabited area of Zakhakhel Khyber.

Over 4.2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Bangladesh by flight number FZ-336.

3.6 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Bajor, rounded up in Bahria Town Karachi. During the operation in Chagai, 100 kg of opium was recovered from a vehicle. Five kg of heroin concealed in a car was recovered

near Sabi Road Quetta. A resident of Naseerabad was arrested during the operation. During the operation in Hayatabad, Peshawar, two kg of heroin was recovered from a drug smuggler, a resident of Khyber.

A Sharjah-bound passenger who was trying to go on flight number PK-257 from Bacha Khan International Airport was arrested.

Three capsules were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Bannu. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigations are under process.

Railways retrieve 1,037 acres land from illegal land grabbers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 1,037 acres of its precious land worth millions of rupees from illegal land grabbers during various anti-encroachment operations across the country. "As many as 507 acres retrieved in Punjab, 153 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 343 acres in Sindh and only 34 acres in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that about 3,287 acres in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached.

The official said that in light of the directives of the Supreme Court, the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway network were initiated and a joint procedure order was issued to all divisional superintendents for retrieval of railway land from encroachment.

"The anti-encroachment schedules, on a three-month basis, are being prepared and sent to all concerned in line with the joint procedure order," the official added.

He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grab-

bers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations which were using it for residential, commercial and agricultural purposes for decades.

"The encroachment operation will be launched with the assistance of Railway Police and district administrations of the relevant provincial governments," he added. He said the organization was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including a detailed survey being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation by various government departments.

The official said that First Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to PR Judicial Magistrates for expeditious trial.

The issue regarding illegal occupation and possession of Pakistan Railways' land by government departments and institutions has also been taken up with the concerned departments, he added.

The official said PR owned 167,690 acres of land across the country, of which 90,326 acres were in Punjab, 39,428 acres in Sindh, 28,228 acres in Balochistan, and 9,708 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with the delegation of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) at Parliament House.

Turkey to help in *Kankor*

KABUL (Ariana News): Turkish officials have expressed readiness to improve Afghanistan's university entrance examination called *Kankor*. A Turkish examination official said that his country has good experience in conducting exams that focus more on accuracy. He said that they prepare 5,000 questions every year without any repetition and are ready to share their experience in this regard. Turkey wants to establish relations with Afghanistan in every field.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Rabi-us-Sanni 28, 1445 — Tuesday, November 14, 2023

‘Over 2,300 children died’

KABUL (TOLONews): At the same time as World Pneumonia Day, the number of children suffering from this disease has increased in the country. According to the Ministry of Public Health, more than 2,300 children have died from this disease in the current year. Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, the spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, said that since the beginning of the year, more than one million children have been suffering from this disease and have visited health centers.

Int'l's sanctions cruel, unjust: IEA

KABUL (Ariana News): The caretaker government of Afghanistan has been under the shadow of sanctions by the international community and the United States for more than two years. Sanctions the Islamic Emirate calls cruel and unfair and wants lifted.

The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate says the United Nations and some countries are dealing with the issues of Afghanistan in a "sloppy manner" and are putting pressure on the Islamic Emirate that are contradictory to the Doha Agreement.

Zabihullah Mujahid, however, does not consider the continuation of these sanctions to the benefit of any party and wants an end to the pressure against Afghanistan.

"Unfortunately, Afghanistan is being treated cruelly, especially by the United Nations and the countries that have influence in this organization,

they are still in a state of conflict and are trying to reconcile with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and they are trying to have a personalized relationship with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Although the obligations of the Doha agreement were that sanctions should be lifted," said Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman of IEA.

The existence of the names of some officials of the Islamic Emirate on the United Nations Security Council's blacklist, the non-awarding of Afghanistan's seat in the United Nations to the representative of the Islamic Emirate, the freezing of Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves, banking sanctions and the travel ban of a number of senior IEA officials are some of the sanctions that the Islamic Emirate wants lifted.

"Steps should be taken to bring Afghanistan closer to countries and this organ-

ization (UN) and build trust, but unfortunately, instead of positive steps, negative steps have been taken in this direction, which is unfortunate and the rights of the Afghan people are being lost," Mujahid added.

However, the international community has repeatedly said that the reason for increasing pressure and sanctions on the Islamic Emirate is the violation of human rights, especially the rights of women and ethnic minorities, by the rulers of Afghanistan and said these sanctions will not be lifted until the caretaker government of Afghanistan fulfills its international obligations.

Over the past two years, although the Islamic Emirate has been able to establish good relations and positive interactions with many countries, no country has recognized the caretaker government of Afghanistan.

Afghan currency raised

KABUL (TOLONews): The money-exchange union of Sarai Shahzada, Kabul announced that 66.70 Afs were exchanged for \$1 USD, a week ago it was 73.50 Afs/dollar.

The spokesman for the money-exchange union said that the rise was caused due to the ban on the use of foreign currencies, particularly Pakistani rupees, in business deals in the country.

"The main reason is that Da Afghanistan Bank has announced deadlines for the provinces which were using Kaldor [Pakistani rupees] for the past years," he said.

"Within the past three-months, the value of afghani currency has increased gradually and the [US] dollar is dropping. This is good news for the economy of Afghanistan," said Mohammad Dawood Nazari, a money exchanger. To stabilize the value of the afghani, the union also stressed the use of Afghan currency in the markets.

This comes as Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank) said that it has a sufficient amount of Afghan currency which it can inject into the market if needed.

"We are assuring our countrymen that Da Afghanistan Bank holds sufficient banknotes in a bid to release it in the market based on monetary policies," said Has-eebullah Noori, a spokesman for DAB.

Meanwhile, the residents complained that despite the surge in value of afghani currency against US dollars, the price of food materials has remained high.

"We call on the government to bring changes in the prices. The oil dropped and so did the flour. We are poor people, and we don't care about the dollar," said Faisal, a resident of Kabul.

"The prices of one dollar were once 130 Afs but now \$100 is exchanged for 6,800Afs," said Mohammad Amir, a resident of Kabul.

This comes as the prices of dollars in the neighboring countries, including Pakistan and Iran, have risen.

Eight electricity stations erected in Panjshir

PANJSHIR (TOLONews): The local officials of Panjshir announced the construction of eight electricity stations in the past six months in different areas of this province.

According to them, these stations were built by domestic and foreign institutions and organizations, and more than a thousand families have benefited.

Officials made these statements at the opening ceremony of an electricity tower in Anaba district of Panjshir, which was built by a Turkish organization at the cost of one and a half million afghanis.

"Today we were the witness of the opening of this tower and since the Islamic Emirate came into power, this is the 8th tower that was open and it provides electricity from 800 to 1,000 families," said Mohammad Agha Hakim, the Panjshir governor.

"It has a capacity of 100 kilowatt amps. Al-Falah Institute provides electricity for all the electrical sys-



tems, and it has charged approximately 1.5 million Afghanis, which is \$18,000," said Shariffullah, the head of a Turkish-Afghan institution.

Meanwhile, residents of Panjshir said that still most of the province does not have access to electricity. "Light is one of the

dimensions of development and progress because we can achieve many things easily," Ezatullah told TOLONews.

"We thank them for bringing us electricity, and they should pay more attention like this," said Nyaz Mohammad, a resident.

According to officials,

the work of the Parendah Panjshir dam project, which was started 16 years ago at a cost of \$7.5 million US dollars and which would provide a capacity of four megawatts of electricity, is reportedly 97% finished and the remaining work is supposed to be resumed in the future.

Culturists, residents want historical sites repaired, preserved in Herat

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Cultural experts and residents of western Herat province say they are concerned about the destruction of some historical monuments in the province.

The say winter is approaching when the possibility of further destruction of historical sites increases and the government should take immediate steps to ensure their safety and preservation.

About one and a half months ago, devastating earthquakes jolted Herat province, killing and injuring more than 6,000 people and causing huge financial losses to the people.

Some ancient places and historical places in Herat were also damaged. Historic moments are a symbol of cultural identity and represent important piece of history,

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News, Nasir Arab, a resident of Herat city, while visiting the grand mosque, said Herat was among Afghanistan's ancient provinces and the government and institutions should restore a number of monuments and historic sites in the province.

Munir Ahmad, another inhabitant of Herat, said the government must be determined to restore historic sites and repair damages caused to some monuments.

On the other hand, Syed Abdul Aziz Chishti, the guardian of the grand mosque, told Pajhwok that several parts of the mosque had damaged, including four porches and six garlands.

He urged the government to maintain and

restore the mosque to its previous position in order it could attract visitors as before.

He said the mosque should be paid attention without any delay.

Cultural experts say historical monuments represent an important piece of history and cultural identity of a nation and should be protected and preserved for future generations.

Agha Gul Haidari, a cultural figure, expressed his concern about damages caused to a number of historical sites and places in the recent earthquakes.

He said the government and other organizations should pay serious attention to repairing and reconstructing damaged historical sites.

However, Hafiz

Raqibullah Rizawni, head of historical monuments at the Department of Information and Culture, while acknowledging that some monuments had been damaged, said that after the earthquakes they sent survey teams to various districts, including the provincial capital, to examine historic sites.

Hafiz Raqibullah Rizawni also asked the government and organizations that work for preservation of heritage sites to cooperate with them in restoration historical monuments in Herat.

Rizwani added their main focus would be on preventing further destruction of historical places in winter, but they needed cooperation of various institutions and organizations in this regard.



KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Food Program (WFP) in Afghanistan faces a pressing challenge as winter approaches, with a staggering \$400 million needed to ensure food supplies for vulnerable communities.

As the harsh Afghan winter looms just weeks away, these funds are essential to prepare food resources and aid those who need it most.

Afghanistan continues to grapple with one of the most severe humanitarian crises globally, affecting more than 29 million people this year.

Shockingly, over 90% of the population is living below the poverty line, and approximately 17 million individuals are facing acute food insecurity.

The scale of the crisis is immense, underscoring the vital role of organizations like World Food Program (WFP) in addressing this dire situation.

Adding to the complexity of the crisis are recent events, such as the devastating Herat earthquakes

and the deportation of refugees from Pakistan.

These events have further exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, placing additional strain on resources and humanitarian efforts.

The need for international support and funding is more critical than ever to alleviate the suffering of Afghan citizens.

In the face of such overwhelming challenges, the WFP in Afghanistan's plea for \$400 million is a call to action for the global community.

The humanitarian aid required to mitigate the impending winter crisis and address the long-standing poverty and food insecurity issues is substantial.

Timely and substantial contributions from governments and organizations worldwide are essential to prevent a catastrophic humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan.

As winter approaches rapidly, time is of the essence to mobilize the necessary resources and

support to ensure that millions of vulnerable Afghans receive the food assistance they desperately need.

Without immediate and substantial intervention, the suffering in Afghanistan is poised to deepen, with dire consequences for its population.

QALA-I-NAW (Pajhwok): Some residents in north-western Badghis province have asked the acting government to reduce the prices of essential items and take action against businessmen and shopkeepers who charged above the normal price.

They said the despite unprecedented improved value of Afghani against US dollars the rates of essential items have not reduced.

It is pertinent to mention that one US dollar

was accounted for 67.60 afs.

Ibrahim, one of the Badghis residents, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Most items are purchased in consideration with the value of dollar but still despite depreciation of dollar against Afghani there was no change in the rates of essential items."

He blamed government for failing to control prices but still urged them to stop inflation in the province.

Ibrahim said: "It is known to all the people of

the society that the dollar has fallen against the Afghani currency, but unfortunately when we look at the market, the market is not controlled, those who are responsible and are at the head of the government departments do not control the market to make it clear to the businessmen. If the dollar falls, you should also reduce the prices."

Abdul Ghafar, another resident of Badghis, had similar views and complaint against soaring rates

of essential items.

He expected the relevant institutions to take steps against soaring prices of essential items.

"Dollar has depreciated now, but there is no change in the prices of food and other essential items, we want the government to control prices as the dollar depreciated now," he said.

Some shopkeepers in Qalat-i-Naw, the provincial capital, said they purchased goods from businessmen at high price so

they should sold them accordingly.

Syed Usman, one of the shopkeepers in Qala-i-Naw, said they purchased all goods from businessmen at a high rate.

He said at the same time as the price of the dollar decreased against the Afghani currency, the purchase of goods also increased in dollar terms.

He said they never violated normal prices and ensured justice.

We are not the first hand businessmen and we take

little profit and sold them in the market," he said.

Nazar Mohammad Wasiq, the Qala-i-Naw Mayor, said: "Badghis province imports all its goods from Herat and there is no control by the officials in that province. We have a committee that includes the municipality and several other departments, and we always monitor and see the invoices of the shopkeepers. If he sells the goods at a high price, he will be punished accordingly."

13 people killed, 22 injured in Afghanistan last week

KABUL (Pajhwok): Different sources last week condemned forcible deportation of Afghan refugees.

The week saw an Afghan delegation led by deputy prime minister for economic affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar signing dozens of agreements with Iran. Also last week, the United Nations said the ban on education for Afghan girls above the sixth grade was worrisome.

Casualties

More than a dozen people were killed and 22 others injured in separate incidents of violence nationwide last week.

A blast killed seven people and injured another 20 in Dasth Barchi area of Kabul city, police said.

Unknown gunmen killed two people in Ghor and an education department official in Jawzjan and robbers killed one person in his house in Parwan province.

Explosion caused by an old landmine killed one person in Kandahar province.

Another blast killed one person and injured two others in northeastern Badakhshan province.

In the previous week, according to sources, nine people were killed in separate incidents across the country.

Before the regime change in August 2021, hundreds of civilians, insurgents and security forces would get killed and maimed every week.

Pakistan's claim and IEA's response

Pakistan's Interim Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar last week claimed a 60 percent uptick in terrorist incidents in the country following the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's takeover.

He had said the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan was responsible for the violence and the group used Afghanistan's soil for attacks in Pakistan.

Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan Asif Durrani also recently claimed that the Pakistani Taliban were present in Afghanistan.

However, IEA spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said their government was not responsible for addressing Pakistan's internal

security problems.

He asked Islamabad to solve its domestic issues itself and not blame Kabul for its failures.

Reactions to Afghan refugees' deportation

Pakistan has launched a crackdown on illegal Afghan refugees in the country, arresting, and forcibly deporting them. So far Pakistan has expelled more than 300,000 Afghan refugees.

Amnesty International last week once again asked the government of Pakistan to immediately halt the detentions, deportations and widespread harassment of Afghan refugees.

In a new report on Friday, the watchdog voiced its concern over the complete lack of transparency, due process and accountability in the detentions and deportations taking place over the last week.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also voiced alarm over the ill-treatment of Afghan refugees and asked the Pakistani authorities to stop mistreating the refugees.

Also last week, acting Interior Minister of Afghanistan Sirajuddin Haqqani said forcible deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan was against all international norms and Islamic principles.

Deputy foreign minister Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai said Pakistan had decided to deport Afghan refugees without coordinating the decision with the Islamic Emirate, the United Nations and the UN refugee agency.

Former president Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah also expressed concerns over forcible deportation of Afghan refugees.

Abdullah asked the international community to take urgent measures to provide aid to the returnees. Welcoming the returnees, Afghan media officials and representatives showered them with flower petals in Torkham and asked the international community to help the returning refugees in reestablishing their lives.

Afghan delegation to

Iran

Last week, deputy prime minister for economic affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar visited Iran.

He discussed with Iranian officials political-economic interaction, joint cooperation in political, educational and cultural fields and sought the release of Afghan prisoners accused of minor crimes.

The Afghan delegation signed dozens of trade and economic agreements with Iran.

Demand for coalition government in Afghanistan

Last week, the presidents of Iran and Tajikistan called for the establishment of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

But Zabihullah Mujahid said that the current government of Afghanistan was inclusive and represented all tribes.

He said no country had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another country.

He said that countries should support the Afghan system, not particular individuals.



Education of girls

Last week, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told a gathering in Saudi Arabia "Women in Islam", that 130 million girls were deprived of education worldwide and the situation in Afghanistan was significantly worse.

Also, UNAMA head Roza Otunbayeva expressed concern about the ban on Afghan girls' education above the 6th grade. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked the Islamic Emirate to respect human rights, especially the rights of women and girls.

The Islamic Emirate has

repeated said it is committed to giving all people in Afghanistan the rights enshrined in Islam.

Humanitarian aid

Last week, South Korea announced one million US dollars and the European Union 60 million euros in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Comments on pro-Palestine protests

UK PM sacks interior minister Suella Braverman

LONDON (AFP): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked his interior minister Suella Braverman on Monday after her criticism of the police's handling of a pro-Palestinian march divided his party and threatened his authority. Under fire from opposition lawmakers and members of the governing Conservative Party to eject Braverman, Sunak seemed to have brought forward a long-planned reshuffle to bring in allies and remove ministers he felt were not performing.

Following her dismissal, Braverman said "it has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as home secretary". "I will have more to say in due course," she added. Last week, Braverman defied Sunak by publishing an article accusing the police of adopting "double standards" in its treatment of protests — an argument opposition Labour said inflamed tensions at a pro-Palestinian demonstration on Saturday. Then more than 140 people

were arrested after far-right counter protesters skirmished with police, who tried to keep them away from the 300,000 pro-Palestinian marchers. Sunak is expected to carry out a wider number of changes in his cabinet, bringing in allies and removing some ministers who his Downing Street office say have not been performing as well as he wanted in their departments.

Meanwhile, former British leader David Cameron was named as the country's new Foreign Secretary, in a surprise appointment made by Sunak. David Cameron, 57, served as British prime minister from 2010 to 2016, resigning after the outcome of the Brexit referendum, when Britain voted to leave the European Union.

His unexpected return to the front line of British politics comes after he spent the last seven years writing his memoirs and involving himself in business, includ-

ing Greensill Capital, a finance firm which later collapsed. Greensill's demise fuelled questions about the extent to which former leaders can use their status to influence government policy after Cameron repeatedly contacted senior ministers in 2020 to lobby for the firm.

Sunak's office said on Monday that King Charles had approved giving Cameron a seat in Britain's upper chamber, the House of Lords, allowing him to return to government as a minister despite no longer being an elected member of parliament. Braverman was appointed as Britain's secretary of state in the Home Department by former Prime Minister Liz Truss in September 2022. She was ordered to resign weeks into the job for what she said was breaking rules by sending an official document from her personal email account. She was reinstated as head of the Home Department by Sunak after he became prime minister.

PTI chief, Asad, Fawad's indictment deferred

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry could not be indicted in contempt of Election Commission case on Monday.

Four-member commission led by Sindh member Nisar Durrani conducted hearing of contempt of ECP and chief election commissioner cases. Commission head Durrani, during proceedings, remarked if there were security fears, the four-member panel could issue notification for hearing of the cases in jail. The commission member asked if law permitted them for the same. The law secretary said he would seek opinion of the law ministry in this regard. Upon inquiry of the commission, Fawad Chaudhry's lawyer said his client was in Adiala Jail on judicial remand.

Member commission said the ECP was a constitutional body with its own rules, constitution and act. He said no other law was applicable on the election commission. Later, the commission adjourned hearing of the case till December 6. Earlier on November 4, the election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had dismissed in unequivocal terms that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson's media statement was totally baseless and in contrast with the facts, especially regarding the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission in general.

In a statement, an ECP spokesperson noted that issuance of such statements, while the general election date had been determined through consensus, was an abortive attempt to disrupt the current congenial atmosphere. He reminded PTI that the Election Commission did demonstrate exceptional impartiality during by-elections on July 17 and October 16, 2022. He said the Commission has so far substantiated its commitment to electoral transparency, through its initiatives and actions.

Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Monday extended the judicial remand of PTI stalwarts Ijaz Chaudhry and Dr Yasmin Rashid in May 9 violence cases until November 22 and November 27, respectively.

Earlier, both Ijaz and Dr. Yasmin were produced in the court on the completion of their judicial remand. During the hearing of their cases, both walked up to the rostrum and prayed to the judge to announce verdicts in their cases early so that they could contest general elections.

Nawaz's Quetta visit rescheduled

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's Quetta visit has been rescheduled. Nawaz Sharif who was scheduled to fly to Balochistan on Monday to further expand his party's alliances with regional players, now will visit the provincial capital of Balochistan tomorrow (Tuesday) along with PML-N President, Shehbaz Sharif.

The security squad of the former three-time prime minister has left for Quetta before his arrival. During his visit, the ex-PM will hold political meetings and it is expected that many political leaders will announce to join PML-N. The PML-N on Tuesday formed an alliance with the MQM-P and announced reaching out to other parties in Sindh. PML-N team Saturday reached Karachi to meet Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) and other parties' leadership.

Senior leader of PML-N including Khawaja Saeed Rafique met with Pir Sahab Pagara and forwarded him Nawaz Sharif's message. The PML-N delegation also visited the MQM-P markaz in Bahadurabad to discuss further steps after the coalition elections. Nawaz Sharif, who returned last month after around four-year stay in London, will hold meetings with PML-N Balochistan's leadership during his visit to Quetta. Meanwhile, PML-N is also eyeing another alliance with the JUI-F, ANP and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Afzal Marwat booked in FIRs for anti-state rhetoric: PHC told

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and Imran Khan's lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat advocate is nominated in two First Information Reports (FIRs) for anti-state rhetoric and provoking public against institution at DI Khan and Mohmand districts respectively, on Monday.

Assistant Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani produced record before Peshawar High Court (PHC) divisional bench comprised of Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Waqar Ahmad regarding cases registered against PTI's chairman lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat. He added that Sher Afzal is booked in two cases at Mohmand and DI Khan district. At the same time, PHC ordered petitioner to appear before the competent court. The writ pleaded for provision of record of FIRs registered against Sher Afzal Marwat advocate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to contest the

allegation before courts. The petition also argued to police from arresting Sher Afzal Marwat till provision of record in this regard. Assistant Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani informed that one case is registered at Saddar police station DI Khan and other one in Mohmand district with identical allegations of anti-state rhetoric. PHC's divisional bench comprised Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Waqar Ahmad dispose of writ plea on provision of record by provincial government while ordered Sher Afzal Marwat advocate to appear before competent courts.

Meanwhile, Special Anti-corruption court had adjourned hearing on interim bail pleas of five former PTI members assembly till 28th November due to unavailability of Judge Babar Ali Khan.

The counsel Syed Sikandar Shah appeared before court on behalf of PTI's leaders pleaded for interim bail including former provincial minister

for finance Taimour Salim Jaghbra, Fazal Elahi, Muhammad Asif, Irfan Salim and Mahmood Jan.

It is worthy to mention that the petitioners are nominated in FIR for illegal recruitment and malpractices in developmental projects after conclusion of inquiry in this regard by Anti-Corruption Establishment.

Child Protection Court Peshawar rejected bail plea of alleged rapist of minor and ordered to kept him behind bars. According to prosecution, the accused along with facilitator booked in FIR filed at Badabghier police station for raping 10 years age child. Police had arrested the accused after registration case in this regard. However, the alleged rapist had made compromise with the complainant approached Child Protection court for bail plea. Child Protection Court Peshawar had rejected bail plea of the alleged rapist and ordered to keep him behind bars after conclusion of arguments.

8 pro-Iran fighters dead in US strikes in Syria

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT (AFP): At least eight pro-Iran fighters were killed in US strikes on eastern Syria, a war monitor said on Monday, after Washington announced the raids a day earlier in response to attacks on American forces.

The toll is "eight pro-Iran fighters dead, including at least one Syrian, and Iraqi nationals," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, following the strikes late Sunday on the Mayadeen and Albu Kamal areas of Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province. It is the third time in less than three weeks that the US military has targeted locations in Syria it said were tied to Iran, which supports various armed groups that Washington blames for a spike in attacks on its forces in the Middle East.

"US military forces conducted precision strikes today on facilities in eastern Syria used by Iran's

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran-affiliated groups in response to continued attacks against US personnel in Iraq and Syria," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement. "The strikes were conducted against a training facility and a safe house near the cities of Albu Kamal and Mayadeen, respectively," he said.

The United States targeted a Tehran-linked weapons storage site in Syria on Wednesday, and also hit two facilities in the country on October 26 that it said were used by Iran and affiliated organizations. Washington says the series of strikes is in response to repeated attacks on American forces in Iraq and Syria — more than 45 since October 17 — that have wounded dozens of US personnel.

The surge in attacks on US troops in recent weeks

is linked to the war between Israel and Hamas, which began when the Palestinian militant group carried out a shock cross-border attack from Gaza on October 7 that Israeli officials say killed about 1,200 people. Israel's military responded with a relentless air, land and naval assault on Gaza that the territory's health ministry said has killed more than 11,100 people — deaths that have sparked widespread anger in the Middle East, and criticism against Washington from Iran-backed groups.

There are roughly 2,500 American troops in Iraq and some 900 in Syria as part of efforts to prevent a resurgence of the Daesh group. The militants once held significant territory in both countries but were pushed back by local ground forces supported by international air strikes in a bloody, multi-year conflict.

LHC orders to close schools on Saturdays

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Justice Shahid Karim of the Lahore High Court on Monday ordered the government to close all schools and colleges on Saturdays in Punjab as the provincial authorities fail to curb smog.

The directives from the LHC judge came during a hearing today pertaining to measures taken by the Punjab government to control air pollution that has reached dangerous levels in recent days. The judge, reminding the Lahore commissioner, also ordered the introduction of a work-from-home policy for two days a week.

"Commissioner Lahore has failed completely in controlling smog. He talks big but nothing happens on the ground. Just a notification is issued to shut everything," he remarked. Justice Karim also ordered the immediate removal of deputy commissioners in Sheikhupura, Jhang, Hafizabad, Khanewal, Nankana and Bahawalnagar, saying that the situation is very bad in these districts. He ordered the chief secretary of Punjab to immediately issue a notification to transfer the aforementioned officers.

The judge also ordered the removal of the director general environment. "Videos of crop residual burning being shared are very disappointing," he

said. The judge remarked that everything is shut down through a notification, adding that all the officers go on leave after the government announcement.

The judge said the entire city gets disrupted if the traffic stops for five minutes. "Most smog is caused by vehicle exhaust," The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) counsel said the provincial government constructed an underpass in just 70 days. "The smog that will follow this construction will affect us through the winter. You may have become an underpass expert, but also consider other matters," he observed.

Justice Karim ordered the commission member to hold a meeting with the Punjab chief secretary and inform him about the court orders. The court adjourned the hearing till Wednesday.

Last week on November 8, the Punjab government announced a public holiday on November 10 (Friday) in Lahore, Gujranwala and other districts due to prevailing smog in the province, announcing the closure of all markets, shopping malls, restaurants, cinemas, gyms, schools and public and private offices. Later, the provincial government lifted the lockdown after a heavy spell of rain in parts of Punjab on Friday which washed away the smog, subsequently improving the air quality.

Moonis Elahi declared absconder

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Moonis Elahi, son of PTI President Parvez Elahi, was declared an absconder on Monday by a Lahore accountability court in a case pertaining to allegations of receiving billions in kickbacks in development projects.

The NAB accused Moonis of embezzling money in various development projects and initiated proceedings on Oct 6 to declare former federal minister Moonis Elahi a proclaimed offender, stating that Moonis had been evading arrest and due course of law.

Moonis, who left the country last year after the crackdown on the PTI, faces multiple cases of corruption and money laundering registered against him by the Federal Investigation Agency, the Anti-Corruption Establishment and NAB. In a hearing presided over by Judge Naseem Ahmad Virk today, the NAB prosecutor, Waris Ali Janjua, was asked by the court to begin the process of confiscating the former federal minister's properties. "Neither did he [Moonis] surrender for arrest nor did he join the investigation," Janjua told the court.

Russia labels reports on troop movements in Ukraine 'provocation'

MOSCOW (AFP): Russia's Ministry of Defence has called the publication by media about a regrouping of its troops in Ukraine a "provocation". The ministry said that the reports by two state news agencies on Monday, discussing Russian troop movements in Ukraine, were "false". The reports were quickly withdrawn after publication.

"The transmission of a false report about the 'regrouping' of troops in the Dnipro area, allegedly on behalf of the Russian Defence Ministry's press centre, is a provocation," the ministry said, according to the RBC news outlet. The reports, by the RIA Novosti and TASS agencies, had said that Russian troops were being moved to "more favourable positions" east of the Dnipro River in Ukraine.

The Kremlin's spokesperson declined to comment on the incident, which has been flagged as illustrating disarray among the military establishment regarding media work, saying it was a matter for the military. On Friday, Russia's military said that its forces had thwarted a Ukrainian attempt to forge a bridgehead on the eastern bank of the Dnipro and on nearby islands.

Last week, The US-based Institute for the Study of War said that Ukraine appeared to have conducted assaults across the Dnipro in Kherson region in mid-October, and noted that Russian military bloggers were reporting continued Ukrainian ground operations on the east bank. According to ISW's assessment as of November 12, while Russian forces conducted a limited series of missile strikes targeting southern Ukraine, "the Russian government is attempting to downplay the extent of its efforts to strengthen control over the Russian information space".

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials say that Russian forces have ramped up attacks in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to gain ground near two key front line cities. "Toward Bakhmut, the Russians have become more active and are trying to recapture previously lost positions," General Oleksandr Syrskiy wrote in a statement on the Telegram messaging app. "Enemy attacks are being repelled," he added.

South Asia worst in world for water scarcity: UN

NEW YORK (AFP): The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has warned that children living in South Asian countries are at risk due to worsening water scarcity in the region. The majority of the most affected children reside in South, South East Asia, Central Asia, and some sub-Saharan countries, according to the UN agency's report: "The Climate Changed Child".

The revelation is alarming, as South Asia with its eight countries, is one of the worst-affected regions by climate change and amounts to one-quarter of the world's children. According to the agency, as many as 739 million children around the world are facing "high or very high" water scarcity — which is ascertained via composite measure of baseline water stress, seasonal variability,

interannual variability, groundwater table decline, and drought risk. A high Unicef Children's Climate Risk Index reflects increased exposure to risks associated with water scarcity.

The report also highlighted that 436 million children are facing "extreme water vulnerability", which is categorised as the double burden of high or very high water scarcity. Extreme water vulnerability is a key contributor to the deaths of children under five years of age due to "preventable diseases". Termining the adverse effects of climate change as "devastating" for children, Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell said that the phenomenon particularly affects children's physical and mental health.

Meanwhile, Unicef South Asia head Sanjay

Wijesekera has also acknowledged that millions of children in the region facing a shortage of drinking water. Termining investments in safe drinking water and sanitation services" as the "first line of defence to protect children from climate change impacts", the report further warns that 35 million children will be vulnerable to "high or very high water stress levels" — the ratio of total water demand to available surface, groundwater supplies — by the year 2050 in South Asia, Middle East and North Africa regions.

Unicef, at COP28, has called on world leaders to embed children in the Global Stocktake (GST) and include "children and climate resilient essential services within the final decision on the Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA)."

PAF's JF-17 jets join Dubai Air Show

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force is poised for a resounding participation at the prestigious Dubai Air Show 2023, featuring its highly advanced JF-17 Thunder Block 3 fighter jet alongside the versatile Super Mushshak aircraft. The mega event that is scheduled to take place from 13-17 November, 2023 marks the first-ever appearance of the PAF's JF-17 Thunder Block-III aircraft in an international air show, symbolizing Pakistan's commitment to innovation and excellence in aviation. The historic participation also marks a significant milestone for PAF, showcasing its cutting-edge aviation capabilities on a global stage.

The JF-17 Thunder Block 3 fighter jet epitomizes the pinnacle of modern aerial warfare technology. Equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, enhanced weaponry, and advanced electronic warfare systems, the JF-17 Block 3 boasts superior maneuverability, extended range, and enhanced combat capabilities.



Its participation in the Dubai Airshow signifies the confidence PAF places in this indigenous marvel, highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fostering self-reliance in the defence industry.

Accompanying the JF-17 Thunder, Pakistan Air Force will also showcase the Super Mushshak aircraft, known for its exceptional training capabilities and versatility. This robust and reliable aircraft has been instrumental in nurturing the skills of countless PAF pilots, contributing to their excellence and expertise. With its remarkable performance and adaptability, the Super Mushshak

has garnered international recognition as a trusted trainer aircraft.

The Dubai Airshow serves as a premier platform for aviation enthusiasts, defence professionals and industry leaders from around the world to witness cutting-edge technologies and foster global collaborations.

PAF's participation in addition to reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening international cooperation and promoting regional stability, is a testament to the nation's commitment to peace through strength and its role as a responsible global player in the aviation industry.

Nothing wrong in maintaining 'cordial ties' with establishment: Hamza

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Hamza Shehbaz has said that there is nothing wrong with maintaining "cordial ties" with the establishment.

Speaking to journalists in Lahore on Monday, the PML-N leader said the establishment plays an important role in domestic affairs across the world. "It's good if the establishment supports any government," he remarked. His statement comes as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have

been raising concerns over "preferential treatment" being given to PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif since he returned to the country ending four-year self-imposed exile in London. Both the major political parties have claimed that a level-playing field is being denied to them and attempts are being made to pave the way for the PML-N's return to power ahead of general elections scheduled to be held on February 8, 2024.

In today's interaction, the PML-N central leader said the upcoming general elections will be the most difficult in the country's history. He called upon all

political parties to unite to work for the economy's betterment. "We have to control dollar and petrol rates."

Hamza also stressed the need for promoting politics of tolerance saying it will take many years to eliminate intolerance from the country's political landscape. He also opposed the NAB modus operandi while calling for eradicating the menace of corruption.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari took a jibe at his political opponents, saying the people would respond "to them who are getting their election results made while sitting in the room".